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The People.

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR ALL CLASSES.

LONDON, SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 1923.

DRINK & ENJOY
LIPTON'S
TEA

Registered at the
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FRENCH GRIP ON INDUSTRIAL GERMANY.

MORE TOWNS TO BE OCCUPIED.

RUHR POLICY OF PASSIVE RESISTANCE.

PARIS TALKS OF REPRISALS.

BERLIN'S COAL SUPPLY CUT OFF

In accordance with her own plan for securing reparations from Germany, France has entered the rich industrial district of the Ruhr and is tightening her grip on the district.

Essen, the first town to be seized by French troops, is reported to be quiet, but the French command is taking every precaution in view of the possibility of disorders to-day, when protest demonstrations will be made.

A policy of passive resistance is being adopted by Germany. France views this attitude with disfavour and she is threatening reprisals.

BOCHUM NEXT.

MORE FRENCH TROOPS MAY ADVANCE TO-DAY.

The march to Essen began in the early hours of Thursday morning, and by nine o'clock the city was occupied.

The French troops of occupation, who marched with full war equipment, including gas masks, are composed exclusively of White units. They include two infantry divisions under General Fourrier and General Lainglet, and one cavalry division under General Rampon.

There have been no incidents between French troops and German civilians, but martial law has been proclaimed.

The French troops in the Ruhr, says Reuter, are disposed as follows: The first division at Oberhausen, Essen, Becklinghausen and Dinslaken, and the second division at Mülheim, Essen and Mettmann. The Belgians are at Ruhrtor, Oberhausen, Bottrop and Borst.

ANOTHER MOVE.

While more troops are advancing into the newly occupied area, says Reuter, there does not appear to have been any extension of the area, although a forward movement from Gelsenkirchen is predicted.

Most of the large halls in Essen have been commandeered for the billeting of troops, but they are inadequate for the purpose, and a number of schools have therefore also been requisitioned, a fact which is eliciting much quiet criticism from the German inhabitants.

Bochum—in whose industries Hugo Stinnes has a predominating influence—may be occupied to-day. It is a town of 150,000 inhabitants, and is the scene of iron and steel works, mines, and other industries. The ammonium and benzol syndicates at Bochum, like the coal syndicates at Essen, have departed to Hamm.

A message from Essen states that M. Coste, President of the French Commission of Control, has invited the directors of the mining federation (Bergbauverein) to meet him at the Rathaus to discuss ways and means of mining production.

The directors have accepted the invitation and the meeting is taking place.

"CRYING INJUSTICE."

A conference of Premiers of the Federal States, in Berlin, says Reuter, unanimously approved the attitude of the Government in the Reich in regard to reparations and the occupation of the Ruhr.

The Bavarian Premier, Herr von Kneiling, declared that the firm attitude of the Government of the Reich against the "crying injustice which France has imposed upon Germany," would meet with the fullest approval of Bavaria and all other German States.

MEETING BARRED.

Berlin, Saturday.—In order to prevent demonstrations in front of the French Embassy, the police authorities have prohibited the monster demonstration organised for to-morrow at the Lustgarten.

Dr. Mayer, German Ambassador to France, will not return to Paris as Ambassador.—Central News.

STOP PRESS.
FOR LATEST NEWS
SEE BACK PAGE.

GIRL'S SLEEPWALK TO DOCTOR'S SURGERY.

SHOCK THAT KILLED.

MYSTERY OF MEDICINE IN A CUP.

A strange story concerning the death of a doctor's daughter who had apparently been walking in her sleep, was told at East Ham when an inquest was held on Joan Ethel Russell (21), who lived with her father, Dr. John Hutchinson Russell, at 362, Romford-rd.

Dr. Russell stated that his daughter had been in good health. Last Tuesday she seemed well, and was with her sweetheart in the evening. She went to bed, and just before eight o'clock in the morning he found his daughter in a recess with her head towards the pantry. She was clad only in her nightdress. Her body was warm, and artificial respiration was tried in vain.

Dr. Russell said that his daughter once had an attack of sleep-walking, and was subject to bad fainting.

An ordinary tea-cup was produced, and the coroner asked the doctor to look at the brown deposit at the bottom. What did he make of it?

Witness replied that it was very bitter to taste. He also said that he had opium in the surgery. The cup was not in the surgery the previous evening.

Coroner: Did your daughter take much medicine? No; she was not used to doctoring herself.

Can you give any suggestion why she should take anything? I cannot tell.

REGARDED TO BE MARRIED.

Mrs. Russell, the mother, said that her daughter had never been in the surgery in her life, and did not know opium from anything else. She did not know the drugs or the places in which they were kept. When her daughter walked in her sleep two years ago she went into another room and picked up a book. She knew nothing about it in the morning. She was engaged to be married a fortnight ago.

The coroner (turning to the father) asked him if he could say if the opium preparations in the surgery had diminished?

Dr. Russell: I could not say that one way or the other.

Dr. E. B. Randall said that at the post-mortem examination he found two slight abrasions on the left elbow which might have been caused by a fall. There were no external marks of violence and the internal organs were healthy. Undigested food was in the stomach.

Coroner: Any smell? None whatever. Handled the cup, the witness said that he had tasted the deposit. It was bitter, but he could not say any more.

Coroner: Was there nothing to correspond with it in the stomach? There was a little dark material, but nothing suggestive. He added that he did not think the action of drugs accounted for death.

The coroner said that the girl, coming downstairs without her slippers, showed that she was doing something abnormal. She was probably unconscious, and went into the surgery with the cup and took something, the nasty taste of which awakened her and caused a shock.

He registered a verdict of death from asphyxia, caused by the shock of suddenly awakening from a state of somnambulism.

MISS CONSTANCE COLLIER.

GRAVE ANXIETY FOR HER HEALTH.

Geneva, Saturday.—The condition of Miss Constance Collier, the famous actress, who is lying ill in a nursing home at Territet, gives rise to grave anxiety.—Central News.

VIOLET HOPSON HURT.

Miss Violet Hopson met with a serious accident while engaged in film production at Epsom.

The horse which she was riding shied at the Kinematograph camera and Miss Hopson, who was thrown violently, became unconscious and sustained a number of bruises. She regained consciousness later in the evening at her home.

SIX TIMES BANKRUPT.

For obtaining various sums of money by false pretences, William T. Summer (44), an accountant, was sentenced at the Old Bailey to nine months' hard labour.

A detective stated that the defendant had since 1889 been made bankrupt on six occasions, and had three times been convicted.

MODERN GIRL PRAISED.

"We are confident that an unwavering faith in the modern girl will be amply justified. She may even prove a better Empire-builder than some of the early Victorian ladies," said Mrs. Hornibrook, one of the founders of the Home Companions for Australia, which has taken an office in Queenborough-Terrace, where intending women emigrants may be interviewed.

BRITISH SOLDIER KILLED.

Riflemen Frederick Butterworth, of the King's Royal Rifle Brigade, was killed by a train while on patrol duty in the Neppes suburb of Cologne, says Reuter.

Butterworth belonged to New Barnet, Riflemen George King, who was injured, is expected to recover.

SECRETS OF MYSTERY HOUSE REVEALED.

MRS. MIDDLETON SHOT.

BULLET WOUNDS IN HEAD.

Inquest Disclosures.

STORY OF 5 MONTHS' HIDDEN CRIME.

All that expert evidence could do to reconstruct the strange crime by which Mrs. Alice Hilda Middleton met her death five months ago, in the barricaded mystery house at Park-road, Regent's Park, N.W., was gone through before a coroner's jury.

How the house, after a siege by police and bailiffs, was finally entered, how Cecil Maliby, the tailor-lover, met his death, and how the decomposed body of this passionately adored and—too plainly—madly destroyed mistress was discovered in a bath, is fully told in Page 8.

Having regard to the sensational nature of the tragedy, the interest taken in the coroner's inquiry by the general public was remarkably slight. A few men and boys assembled on the pavement opposite to the entrance to the court, but at eleven o'clock there was no suggestion of a crowd.

Detectives and uniformed policemen gathered in the court were the first to arrive before the proceedings opened. One of the earliest witnesses to enter the building was Dr. Porter. Later some relatives arrived and hurried into the court, shielding their faces with newspapers from the attention of cameras.

Newspaper representatives formed the bulk of the spectators of the proceedings in court, only a few members of the general public being able to gain admittance.

The Coroner, Mr. H. R. Oswald, sat with a jury. He took his seat at 11.40, and the jury, having been sworn, retired to view the bodies. Superintendent Neil, one of the "Big Four," and Superintendent McKay, reached the court just as the coroner opened the proceedings.

HUSBAND AWAY.

The coroner, in his opening statement, outlined the actual facts of the case. Nothing in his address, perhaps, came nearer to the grim horror of these facts than his insistence on the necessity that the jury should be satisfied as to the identification of the body of the woman as that of Mrs. Middleton.

It is very decomposed in the features," he said, "but there are other marks of identification."

"Mrs. Middleton is away from this country and cannot get back for several weeks. It has been suggested that I might have to adjourn this inquiry for his presence. But I do not know. Nothing about the circumstances of the death I do not see what public object could be gained by bringing her all back here again. I think you will have sufficient evidence without his presence."

Evidence of identification in the case of Maliby was given by his daughter, Miss Hilda Maliby, a typist, of St. Paul's Avenue, Chigwellwood. She gave her evidence under stress of great emotion, and while in the box was provided with a glass of water.

She said her father was aged 47, and his occupation was that of a master tailor at Park-nd., Regent's Park. The last time she saw him alive was on Christmas Eve, 1922. His health was then quite good.

Coroner: How was he in mind or brain?

Quite normal.

Did your mother leave him at that time?

No.

Your mother has not been living with him since he left her.

Was he still living in Park-nd.?

DRINKING HABITS.

Where was he living at that time? At Chigwellwood.

Was that the time he left her? He has lived with her for 12 years.

They did not agree, did they, or he sank? Yes, he drank a great deal.

Did he support your mother? Not really.

Did he send her any money for the children? No.

What sort of business had he? Quite good.

Laterly? I cannot say.

It was once a good business? Yes.

Did you ever hear of his threatening to take his life? No.

The next witness was Alfred William Teman of Lime-grove, Eastcote, Middlesex. He said he was a company secretary. He identified the body of the deceased woman.

Coroner: Was she any relation of yours?

Yes, she was my sister-in-law.

What was her name? Alice Hilda Middleton.

What was her age? Thirty-seven last birthday.

And was she a married woman? Yes, she was the wife of John Middleton.

What is he? He is a chief officer in the Merchant Service, on the a.s.s. Maresfield.

Witness said that Mr. and Mrs. Middleton formerly lived at 46, Yale-court, Honeybourne-nd., West-Hampstead. That, he added, was their former address and was the last address that he knew of him to board the address at 28, Park-nd., from Mrs. Middleton.



MRS. MIDDLETON (Barratt).

Did what you saw of the body satisfy you that it was the body of Alice Hilda Middleton?—Yes.

How long is it since you saw her?—Seven months. There is one other evidence of identification. I saw a portion of her hair. It was the hair I expected to find; dark, but slightly discoloured.

The coroner then asked witness to look at the clothing which had been found at 28, Park-nd., and witness was shown a quantity of wearing apparel, including a blue tailor-made costume and two pairs of brown shoes.

Coroner: Can you identify any of those things?—I think the shoes were hers. She had a blue costume but I cannot swear to this one. I think it probable it is hers. The shoes I have certainly seen her frequently wear.

Witness repeated in answer to the coroner that he last saw Mrs. Middleton at the beginning of June, when she was in good health.

Coroner: Had she then formed the acquaintance of Cecil Maliby?—Yes. That was my first knowledge of her having formed an acquaintance with him.

When would her husband leave the country on his ship?—The last time would be the end of July last. That was the last time before we found her missing. She was missing on Aug. 15.

Who saw her last?—My wife, late in June.

Had she left her husband at that time? The previous time he was home she was living with him. She had been with him about a week beforehand—a week before June 26. His ship was in this country for a month or more, when he arrived about the third week in June. He went to Yale-court and a few days afterwards had to leave his ship and go off. Then he went down about the end of June, and was with him on the ship for some days, afterwards going with the ship to Fowey, Cornwall. She was there with him until about the third week in July.

That was when she left him? That was the last time he saw her. He went away in his ship.

When she left him she took up with Maliby?—I think that must be the case. She gave up the flat at Yale-court on June 24. Her husband knew of this.



CHARLES LOWE

Last Sunday afternoon—attracted by the sound of bagpipes, flutes, brass instruments and, above all, of drums—I turned aside to have a look at the immense demonstration of the unemployed in Trafalgar-sq., but mainly contented myself with circling round the perimeter of the workless multitudes, where, if beyond intelligible earshot of the Nelson plinth orators, I could nevertheless indulge in purchasing the leaflets and other printed forms of Communistic propaganda which were being raucously hawked around. One of those penny effusions entitled "A Copy of Verses on the Unemployed and the Great Distress in England"—more remarkable for the tragic sadness of its tone than for the symmetry of its metrical for refrain:

In this country there's millions of money.

But those who have got it take care,

Their sovereigns they nurse and they keep a

So the poor man can't get a share.

They pity the unemployed workmen.

Who doesn't want to shirk any kind of hard work?

But, alas, they can't get it to do!

Those two verses really contained the sober essence of all the fierce declamatory oratory that fell from the four plinth platforms, lion-flanked, at the foot of Nelson's sky-aspiring monument.

Hunger-Marchers.

I got into subsequent conversation with some of those hunger-marchers—especially those hailing from Scotland—and I was much struck by the fortitude and determination which had enabled them—some of them at least—to do it all the way from the Firth and Clyde to the Tweed.

Early Social Reformers.

For something like a parallel, or analogue, to our present-time hunger-marchers and their aims, we must go back to the times of Jack Cade, who flourished in the reign of Henry VI, and of Wat Tyler, who was an equally conspicuous "labour-leader" and communist under Richard II. "Honest Wat" was not gifted with conspicuous brain power, but what he lacked in intellectual force was supplied him by a demagogue called John Ball, known as the "mad" Kent preacher, who, more than five centuries ago, may be said to have originated the theories of "social reform" which the French Communists sought to put in practice in 1789, and with which the Bolsheviks are now in turn seeking to create a new Heaven and a new earth, though the result is only an intensified Hell.

Preacher and Practitioner.

This John Ball—who is not to be confounded with our patron-saint, John Bull—was the man who first asked the communistic question: "When Adam delved and Eve spurned, who was then the gentleman?" and Wat Tyler, who was anything but a gentleman in the heraldic sense of the term—though he appears to have been a fellow of some spirit—constituted himself the putter-in-practice of the inflammatory priest's denunciations. But in justice both to the preacher and the practitioner, I ought to mention that the people of England, like their present-day descendants, had been irritated and enraged, as they had never been before, by the imposition of a poll-tax to defray the heavy expenses of the war with France, which was more of a dynastic than a national one, and left the people cold. Richard II, also at this time was but a boy of thirteen, so Wat Tyler thought this would be a good opportunity for marching on London at the head of "100,000 Kentishmen," as "hunger-martyrs." Such is the figure given by Mr. J. R. Green, author of "A Short History of the English People."

A fine rabble these "100,000 Kentishmen" of Mr. Green's imagination must have been, and very quickly indeed they had exhausted the liquor supply of London and the beef of Smithfield, where their leader fainted at the hands of Sir William Walworth, fishmonger and Lord Mayor as detailed in verse by Richard Johnson, author of the "Seven Champions of Chivalry."

Communist's Tragic End.

The place of Wat Tyler, as a rouser of revolts and leader of strikers and hunger-marchers, was taken 70 years later by Jack Cade, a bricklayer's son, whose portrait you will find admirably limned by Shakespeare in "Henry VI." Though a son of the people, Jack tried to make out that he was really of noble, and even royal, origin, like Ralph Rackstraw in "H.M.S. Pinafore," and by the same accident of mixing up babies at birth, so that this democratic son of England's crew set up a social reformer, and proposed that "forsooth, Oly the pity of it was that a stout Kentishman, Alexander Iden, catching Duke trespassing in his garden, knocked him on the head, and thus made an end of him and all his theories of social reform."

Monk and "Bobs."

There was this in common between our present "hunger-marchers" and the "Monk-marchers" from Scotland, that they both set out about the turn of the year, when days are short and "ways be foul, and night sing the stars on 'em." Only the recent weather conditions were much more favourable to the "hunger-marchers" than they were to the "monarchy-march-

Old Comrades' Calendar.

"The People," which has for so many years championed the cause of Service and ex-Service men reserves this column for brief notices of forthcoming events in connection with Comrades' Old Comrades' Associations. No charge is made.

Letters, addressed Editor, "The People," 117, Old Bond St., W.C.1, envelopes being marked "Calendar," should reach us not later than THURSDAY morning.

2nd Fri. Even. London Regt. Annual dinner April 20. 7 p.m. Full particulars from Mr. G. F. Fairhurst, Veterans Club, Special general meeting of the members of the Veterans Club at 8 H. M. Court, High Holborn, Jan. 10 at 8 p.m.

2nd Sat. Even. Royal Engineers' annual general meeting Jan. 20. 8 p.m. Details from Mr. G. F. Fairhurst, Veterans Club, 8 H. M. Court, High Holborn, Jan. 10 at 8 p.m.

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MUSIC, PLAYS AND PICTURES



THE WEEK'S OPERA.

WAGNER, BACH, AND MOZART AT COVENT GARDEN.

Bach's "Phœbus and Pan," Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," and Wagner's "Siegfried" were the outstanding successes of the week's opera at Covent Garden.

"Phœbus and Pan," which Sir Thomas Beecham staged with such success some six years ago, is a delightful fragment of musical satire, which loses nothing in its transition from cantata to operatic form.

Its performance the other evening was a singularly happy one, for it brought Mr. Frank Mullings back to the role of Midas and to the British National Opera Company. It was his first appearance after his serious illness, and his judicious make-up and impersonation added much to the success of the revival. In the number "Pan's a Master," Mr. Mullings sang with much vigour and a delicious sense of humour.

The music of Phœbus, usually sung by a tenor, was given very effectively by Miss Juliette Outram. Mr. William Michael also showed humour in his impersonation of Pan, and Miss Doris Lemon, as Monus, sang well, acted with a dainty charm, and her diction was perfect.

For stage presentation a series of dances to air arranged from Bach Suites have been introduced into the cantata, and these were interpreted in a manner deserving of the highest praise. The combination of Bach and Leoncavallo, on the face of it, sounds impossible, but, curiously enough, the delicate music of the former fitted in with the dramatic force of "Pagliacci." It was a programme of contrasts which proved singularly successful.

Mr. Frank Mullings sang Canio in a characteristic manner, and Miss Beatrice Mirandis as Nedda repeated a very acceptable performance. Once again Mr. Robert Parker made Tonio an insistent factor in the tragedy. He is at his best as the vengeful clown.

Mr. Eugene Goossens added to the enjoyment of both performances by the skill and sympathy with which he directed the orchestra.

"Siegfried" also drew a large audience. The performance was not without its drawbacks, but these were counterbalanced by its merits, the chief of which was the conducting of Mr. Eugene Goossens, and the excellent playing of the orchestra. Mr. Goossens made the motives of the score stand out clearly, and his strength and wonderful sense of rhythm helped the singers considerably in their difficult task.

Mr. Boland's Siegfried was a careful rather than an inspired performance, which lacked the joyous spontaneity associated with the youthful hero. His happiest moments were in the more lyrical moments of the opera, and his acting in the last act had much to commend it.

The Wotan of Mr. Robert Parker was an artistic triumph. He made one forget the tediousness of the fallen god, and won sympathy by his intelligent portrayal. He was happily served in the music, which suits the quality of his voice.

Mr. Sydney Russell's Mimi deserves much praise, and Miss Edna Thornton sang the Erla music with much beauty of voice.

It remained at the end of a long evening for Miss Austral to give us a Brunnhilde of exceptional vocal ability. As an actress the Australian singer has still much to learn, although she has improved in this respect since her first appearance at Covent Garden.

On the whole it was a felicitous evening, for which Wagner lovers cannot be too grateful.

MEDIUM.

AN HYPNOTIC PLAY AT THE EVERYMAN.

"Medium," by an Austrian dramatist, Leopold Thoma, translated by George Merritt and George Heilbrow, produced at the Everyman, is a treatise on criminal hypnosis. The author is a doctor practising in Austria, who holds a theory that murderers sometimes act while under hypnotic influence.

To develop this theory, he has imagined a more or less familiar story of the "triangle" order. A married lady has an intrigue with a gentleman of many amours. He possesses the power of hypnosis, which he successfully practices on the lady's husband when (she) calls to be revenged on his wife's be-

trayal.

The lover, who has taken unto himself a new mistress, suggests the husband should go back and kill his wife.

Acting under the hypnotic influence, the unscrupulous man puts poison in his wife's tea. She dies in his arms. At first appear-
ance, he is unaware of his action, but when he realises the hideous truth, he does not rest until the instigator of his wife's murder is dead at his feet.

The play has many defects and also its moments of unconscious humour. We found it impossible to believe in a judge who, in a moment of great crisis, orders a meal of tea, muffins, and scones.

Mr. Franklin Dyall's acting as the husband and Miss Mary Merrill as the wife, did much towards the success of the production. Both performances were remarkable for their strength and artistic restraint. Mr. George Hayes as the lover was properly mysterious and effective.

"Medium" was followed by "The Per-
petual Day," translated from the French of Emile Maizan by Mrs. Alfred Putro. It was well played by Mr. Harold Scott, Mr. Fred O'Donovan, and Mr. George Merritt.

GREENROOM CHATTER.

Miss Phyllis Tittmus "Quite Well"
Again.—Miss Phyllis Tittmus, who was taken ill whilst rehearsing her part in "Battling Butler" at the New Oxford Theatre, is now quite well again, and will make her appearance in the musical farce on Friday evening next.

The Repertory Players.—On Sunday evening next the Repertory Players will present at the Strand Theatre "Coloman," described as a prose play in four acts, set in Hungary in the 11th century, by Edward Percy (author of "If Four Walls Told") and Wallace B. Nicholls.

Last Week at Olympia Circus.—This is the last week of the International Circus and Christmas Fair at Olympia. At each display there are 18 acts, and the programme is so arranged that not a moment is lost. At the close of each performance Mirano, "the human torpedo," gives a most daring gymnastic display high over the people's heads.

Boos for the Cabaret Follies.—To-morrow Jack Hyder will present an entirely new version of the highly successful Cabaret Follies at the Queen's Hall Road. An interesting engagement for this production is Miss Sylvia Leslie and Jack Buchanan. The latter will introduce in the new entertainment "The Dancing Honeymoon," from "Battling Butler."

A Successful Pantomime.—Mr. J. B. Holland's new version of "Aladdin" at the King's Theatre has eclipsed all his previous pantomime successes of the past 20 years. To-morrow evening Chelsea football players will witness the production, and Fred Wolast, the chief comedian, has gone into strict training specially to show them how to lift the cup.

Partners Again.—Mr. Charles Cochran has concluded arrangements to produce "Partners Again," by Montagu Glass and Jules Echert Goodman, on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at a West End Theatre. The leading roles of Potash and Perfumette will be played by Bob Leonard and Phil White. Mr. Montagu Glass is sailing from New York next week to supervise the production.

A Nearly Forgotten "Polly."—Few of the present generation are aware that another "Polly," a musical play, occupied the boards of the Kingsway theatre some years ago. The music by Teudie Solomon was of a most melodious nature. Although the production did not quite "catch on," it was a piece much above the average (with the exception of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas) of those days.

"If Winter Comes" for the St. James's.—At last London playgoers will have a chance of seeing A. S. M. Hutchinson's and B. Macdonald Hastings' stage adaptation of the former's famous novel, "If Winter Comes." This will be presented by Messrs. Frank Curzon, Owen Nares, and B. H. Meyer at the St. James's Theatre on Jan. 31. Owen Nares will, of course, play the boy, Mark Sabre, while Barbara Hoffe will be the new leading lady.

Miss Sybil Thorndike at the Criterion.—Wilkie Wyndham and Miss Sybil Thorndike have decided on Thursday, April 25, as the opening date of their season at the Criterion, when they will present the new comedy, "Advertising April," or "The Girl Who Made the Sunshine Jealous." Eddie Cellier will play the part of Eddie Hobart, the press-agent husband of April Maune, who will be represented by Miss Thorndike.

Popularity of the Seats.—Since Mr. A. E. Abrahams acquired the Scala Theatre he has received in less than 10 applications from various people desiring the theatre despite the alleged theatrical slump. This is no doubt a tribute to the growing popularity with the pleasure-seeking public. The Quest picture is doing good business, and on Saturday matinee £164, tax excluded, was taken at the doors. During the run of "The Orphans of the Storm" the average takings for the first three or four months was over £2,500 per week.

"The Happy Ending" Ends.—The last performance for the present at the St. James's Theatre of Mr. Robert Loraine's production, "The Happy Ending," took place last night. The "Peter Pan" matinees are to continue up to and including Saturday, Jan. 27. Owing to the still great demand for seats four special evening performances of "the boy who never grew up" will be given on Jan. 16, 20, 25, and Saturday, Jan. 27, at 8 o'clock.

"The Happy Ending" Continues.—When the Comptonists present their third new programme on Thursday next, in addition to some of the old items, which will be retained by special request, they will present several new songs and scenes for all the members of the company. In addition to these fresh items, a series of burlesques will be given, and also a "production" scene, entitled, "The Banks of the Nile," will be topically treated.

A New Musical Play.—Mr. Edward Lillard has acquired an original musical comedy by Mr. Fred Thompson, the story of which has been inspired by a "newspaper stunt." Mr. Thompson's heroine is a working girl who wins a newspaper competition intended to discover a British film star. The action passes in London and Hollywood, California. The music will be provided by Mr. Edward Kunitz, the composer of "The Cousin from Nowhere."

Composed by Mr. Robert Courtinge.—Mr. Robert Courtinge has just successfully directed a new musical play, "The Little Devils," at Glasgow. On Feb. 12, next, Feb. 6, he will produce "The Young Idea," a new comedy by Noel Coward at the Savoy. He has a number of other new plays in hand, including a comedy of "great promise" by Eric Hudson, and a work of the same description by the Marchioness of Townshend. Mr. Courtinge is truly as described a busy man.



VARIETY JOTTINGS.

Wilkie Bard at the Victoria Palace.—Wilkie Bard tops the bill this week at the Victoria Palace. The programme also includes Muriel and Butcher, Chris Richards, Malvina, and Jack Stocks.

"The Peep Show" at Finsbury Park.—The London Hippodrome production of "The Peep Show" supplies the current attraction at the Finsbury Park Empire, with Jennie Hartley, Rebla, Jean Allistorie and Reginald Sharland in the principal parts. A feature of the show is the vocal magical ballet, "The Valley of Echoes," of which Samoiloff's "Spectrum Analysis" forms an effective part.

Mr. Charles F. Taylor.—All Pressumen and I am sure a large number of the public will be pleased to hear that Mr. Charles F. Taylor will also act with Mr. George Reynolds in front of the house for Sir Oswald Stoll at Covent Garden during the run of the forthcoming revue in which George Robey will star. He knows every nook and corner of the old Opera House, having been associated with it for 40 years, till he went over to Old Drury to increase his popularity there as general manager.

New "Trinity Church" was Composed.—Tom Costello's "At Trinity Church I Met My Doom," which I first heard sang at the old Cambridge Music Hall some years ago, was one of the most successful of the old songs revived by the "Veterans of Variety." Tom once told me that he carried the verses of this song about with him for months without finding a melody suitable to the words, till one day the author of the words and himself found themselves walking behind an odd-looking man with some sort of the way mannerisms of the hip. The strange part of it all was that the man was visibly talking to himself about some alleged domestic grievance.

"How 'Big' Favreton at the Alhambra.—Talbot O'Farrell has been the "big star" in my way, that one at the Alhambra during the past week, where he has been seen at his best. His sweet singing of "Don Juan" and "If Winter Comes" was greatly to the taste of the audience, who seemed to never tire of hearing his flow of ready anecdote, quip, and tuneful numbers. This is as it should be, for the "large man" is but as delightful a companion off the stage as on it. This week he will continue "the grand work," in addition to such turns of the first magnitude as Ethel Levey, Bransby Williams, and Stanley Logan and Mabel Green in the former's new one-act play, "Mr. and Mrs. M.P."

A Timely Recognition.—The wonderful amount of excellent and variegated work put in by our capable music-hall speakers is perhaps not quite recognised by the general public. The conductor has an enormous and rather exacting job, and it must be, in my opinion, a father monotonous task at times owing to the unavoidable sameness of the material put in front of him. It is, therefore, good news to all lovers of music that, following the example of the Victoria Palace in giving the orchestra special recognition by making them a special turn on the stage, the Metropolitan orchestra, under the able direction of popular Mr. Leon Bassett, give a special turn on the stage, consisting of the latest syncretic successes. A big attraction of the "Met." programme for this week is the gifted sisters Lotus and Toots Pound.

A Pheasant in His Own Country, Etc.—I am pleased to hear of the success of Will Collinson, as he is a comedian with a bountiful resource of fun, and am not astonished at the continued success of Tom Leamore in the Antipodes. He only returned to his native land a short time since, and I was quite surprised to see him doing big with his fine dancing and eccentric fun at the London Shorelitch, where he had no doubt been placed by George Peel, that most discerning of agents. It is pity that some of the magnates of the variety world did not see eye to eye with G.P., to the effect that we might have seen a little more of the agile Tom in the West End.

Andrew Melville's Brighton Pantomime.—I give a photo of

Billy Camp, who, using the well-known phrase, has been the life and soul of the merry pantomime party at the Grand Theatre, Brighton. Mr. Andrew Melville's "Dick Whittington and His Cat" has achieved a striking success, and has attracted crowded houses. Among the other comedians who merrily score are Harry Cook as Sarah the cook, Fred Maple and Bert Burnell as Wilkie and Sally Alberta as the Cat, and Charles Carte as an impressive Alderman Fitzwarren.

Dorothy Moody made a charming Dick and Isabel Dorothy a sparkling Alice.

Grock, a Clown of Clowns.—Grock, the clown of clowns, seems to still further strengthen his position as top of the Coliseum bill with each further week of his engagement. I doubt if ever a turn of his class has ever gone better at the St. Martin's-lane variety house than during the past week. Laughter prevailed every minute he was on the stage, and his repartee has been on quite the grand scale.

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From "Down Under."—Will Collinson, of "Papering a Room" fame, writes me from Melbourne, Australia: You mentioned when I was playing my sketch at the Bedford that I had a good singing voice, and I took that to heart and blossomed forth as a comic singer. I am pleased to tell you that I have made a big hit in Australia, and have some big offers to stay, but unable to accept as I am due on the L.T.V. halls Sept. 1, 1923. This is a fine country, and everyone is so nice to meet. I met Tom Leamore; he is doing big, so is Gus McNaughton.

Tom's Soothing Shows.—They followed him, and his walk suggested the tune and embryo melody. After a time he turned round and in a few forceful words told his quandam follower what he thought of them. Costello took it all in good part, sympathised with him, and insisted on him having refreshment at the nearest hotel. I think it was the Russell Arms. There the popular singer gave him his name, and the surprised lame man, who was an unknown admirer of the comedian, insisted on Tom there and then singing him a chorus of one of his songs. After that he set forth in detail his trouble at marrying late in life on a straitened income, and hence the most successful number that Tom Costello ever sung came into being.

Mashytime's Doing Big Business.—Mashytime's are doing record business with a very bright programme. To-morrow Nelson Jackson joins the company, in place of Mr. W. V. Robinson, who may be aptly described as "The Mouth-Organ King." The latter has made himself a great favourite here, and has just completed the first series of mouth-organ and tin whistle for a well-known gramophone company. They are a brilliant success, and promise to cause a revolution in back-street mouth-organ playing once they get round.

Bert Coote's Enterprise.—Mr. Bert Coote's daring to back his own judgment and produce a show with entirely his own capital has been amply rewarded, for the Victoria Palace has been packed to capacity at matinees for the performances of "The Windmill Man." Those who want to see Fred Bowyer's dainty playlet should hurry up, for the present season closes on Saturday week.

CONCERT NOTES.

A number of British and Continental composers, including Arnold Bax, Lord Berners, Eugene Goossens, Ethel Smythe, and Igor Stravinsky, have arranged a dinner to take place at Paget's Restaurant on Sunday evening, Jan. 21, in honour of Mr. Edwin Evans, the well-known musical critic. Tickets can be obtained from the Hon. Secy., Room 84, 175, Piccadilly, W.2.

Bethesda's Choral Symphony.—Bethesda's Choral Symphony, sung by the Bach Choir and several eminent soloists, is the chief attraction of the London Symphony Orchestra concert in Queen's Hall on Jan. 22. Other items in the programme are Wagner and Bach-Elegar works. Mr. Eugene Goossens will conduct.

A welcome return to London will be made on Jan. 27 by the brothers Leo, Mischa, and Jan Chernivsky, who will give a violin, cello, and piano recital in Wigmore Hall. The famous trio have not been heard here for nine years as they have been fulfilling successful tours all over the world, except England.

The gifted English pianist, Mr. Herbert Fryer, is devoting a whole week to Chopin recitals. They will take place in Zolian Hall from Jan. 29 to Feb. 3. A real feast for lovers (and their name is legion) of the great Polish composer's music.

A delightful programme of madrigals, canzonets, ballads, etc., has been arranged for the concert in Zolian Hall which will be given by the English Singers on Jan. 27.

On Tuesday evening next the famous male voice quartet known as the Gresham Singers are giving a concert in Wigmore Hall.

Miss Ellen Terry's "Goli."—Miss Jean Sterling Macklinay is giving a special matinee in aid of the The Braille and Servers of the Blind League at the Steinway Hall on Friday next. This is in support of Miss Ellen Terry's eloquent "call" on behalf of the League, who are preparing to open a beautiful little home for mentally defective blind children. Those kindly people who would like to support the appeal should communicate with the office of the League at 3, Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C.1.

TOO STOUT SMUGGLER.—Because he appeared to be unusually stout, a revenue officer went up to a sailor at the Surrey Commercial Docks and tapped him belt.

A metallic sound increased the officer's suspicion, and he insisted on searching the man. He found a tin, shaped to the sailor's body, and full of proof of spirit.

The man, Nicholas Telegen, of the s.s. Heda, was ordered to pay three times the value and duty of the spirit—£25 4s. 9d.—at Tower Bridge Police Court.

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PAYING THE PRICE IN LOST BABY POWER.

THE MUNITIONETTE OF YESTERDAY, THE MOTHER OF TO-DAY.

By a Special Correspondent of "The People."

WHERE are Sheffield's munitionettes of 1914-18?

Thousands of the city's girls worked hard and long at the lathe and in the noisy, pulsating works of the East End to help along the munition supplies for the British Army. They pulled heavy levers, stood for hours by busy machines, flung weighty things about with a strength inspired by patriotism. They stuck it when they felt out of sorts, and they worked 12 hours a day for months on end.

The munitionette filled the gap created by the coming out, she helped to win the war, and when it was all ended she faded from the public ken, without reward or song.

She is the mother of to-day. The lover came back from the war, the desire for union after the storm and waiting took fast hold on the warrior and the girl, and they married, mayhap to live with his or her parents. That is typical of the Sheffield munitionette's history since the war years.

They are not all wed of course. Some waited in vain for the return. Others still seek the niche in matrimony. Still others drifted naturally back to the routine of office, home and factory.

But not many. The effects of the war upon many of the returned warriors was no less pronounced than the effects of man-like work, strain and toil upon the girls. For many of them the staliness and serenity of the old years was gone with. Their health was impaired, their minds altered by the robust atmosphere of the workshop, their nerves turned to a higher pitch, her outlook has broadened and her tastes altered.

The striking change that has come over Sheffield's young woman can be laid at no other door than that of the war, and is one of the many great changes in the national life and temperament that followed 1918.

She dances the "dance of the hours" as she never did. The art and fever of terpsichore has never flourished in the city as it does to-day. She is not so averse from a glass of wine or a rollicking night with the liquor.

Facts I have collected show that, compared with the days before she made munitions, the Sheffield girl has lost much of her namby-pambyism with regard to intoxicants which characterised her before. In view of this, it will be interesting to watch her when the prosperous days return, as they promise to do ere long, when the money will flow again.

CIGARETTE SMOKING

Of course, she smokes. "The quantity of cigarettes I sell for women and to women is remarkable," said a wholesaler to me. "For a large city, Sheffield in pre-war days was virtuous above the norm in regard to feminine smoking.

"The after-effects of munition work upon women," he said, "have been fairly serious. Many breakdowns have followed, and the particular effects in many cases have been conducive to lung troubles."

During the munition work, he added, the girls did not get the requisite rest. They often were in a condition of breakdown, but they carried on. Unlike the normal days, those were the times when, if the girl fell unfit or off the hooks, she was not always able to lie down or take a spell of rest and recuperation.

MEAWY SICKNESS.

Mr. Slack did not, of course, forget the good work done by the welfare people. But even their efforts were limited by the insistent demands of the Army and Navy, and the co-operative spirit of discipline and patriotism, which became almost an unwritten law in the shops where the over-alled girl bent to her task, effectually prevented either "slack" or invalid tendencies. A girl in lowered health would work on rather than be talked about.

And so they worked on.

The price is now being paid. Years after, the reparation is felt in the health statistics of the city's women. The State Insurance Department's experience is that sickness among the young women to-day is heavier than that among working men. And records have shown that the average length of a woman's sick time is three days longer than that of the man.

CHEAPER SEASONS.

TRANSPORT MINISTRY AND A DEPUTATION.

Immediate reductions in the charges for season and workmen's tickets on the railways was demanded by a deputation representing trades unions, passengers' associations, and others which waited on the Ministry of Transport.

Season and workmen's tickets were not reduced when ordinary railway fares were cut on Jan. 1.

Mr. Silas Whybrew, a member of the deputation, said it was the casual travellers only who were having the benefit of 25 per cent. reduction in fares. Regular travellers, especially those who lived in the suburbs, gained no advantage from it.

Mr. J. Murray, London secretary of the Building Operatives, drew attention to what he described as the hardships of builders who had to travel across London in pursuit of their calling.

Colonel Ashley, in reply, said he sympathised entirely with the views put forward by the deputation, and admitted that the conditions of travelling were not ideal. But the question was one entirely for the Rates Tribunal, set up under the Railways Act, 1921.

The question of reintroducing weekend tickets from Friday to Tuesday was raised, and Colonel Ashley promised to inquire into the matter.

The deputation left with the feeling that there is no likelihood of any immediate change in the present railway fares and travelling facilities, and the public will be well advised to continue the agitation for cheaper railway travelling, said Mr. Whybrew to a Press representative.

DIED PLAYING BILLIARDS.

While playing a game of billiards in a club basement, Mr. John Brown, of King's Lynn, Leicestershire, aged between 50 and 60, suddenly fell backward and expired. At the time Brown was leading his opponent, and it is thought exaltation caused heart failure.

A POINT FOR CONSIDERATION.



HOMELESS CURATE IN WORKHOUSE.

A COSY LITTLE ROOM ON THE TOP FLOOR.

UNABLE to secure suitable lodgings at Eye (Suffolk), the Rev. S. A. N. Huntley, the assistant curate, has been allowed to enter the Union House in the quarters of the master. Mr. Norris-Huntley here describes what led him to enter the "house."

(By the Rev. S. A. NORRIS-HUNTLEY.)

I had decided that some place in Norfolk or Suffolk should be the stage upon which I should make my bow to the world as a "coorit."

The Vicar of the Eye (an ancient borough that formerly returned two members to Parliament) accepted me as his colleague, and in return for the clerical duties I performed he paid me £120 per annum. Just enough, you see, to keep me out of the workhouse.

Not that I should have minded, even in those days, residing in the house of the Union, for all the inmates were good friends of mine, as well as the master and matron. I spent my first Christmas in Eye with them all, and a jolly family party we were. Three subsequent Christmases were passed in the same way at the same place, and I can tell you that I thoroughly enjoyed them all.

In those pre-war years I had rooms in a very old house in the quaint street leading to the 14th century church and castle. They were panelled in oak, but you would not have known it because of the numberless coats of paint that had been applied.

When the war broke out I left the old borough but still kept in touch with many of my old parishioners through acting as chaplain to the Suffolk and Bedford Regiments, into which they were drafted.

"Oculum in coelum" is the town motto—"one eye on heaven"—and the town, in respect of sight, is a Cyclops. So you see we are really thorough in our religion and not keeping another eye on something else.

"Ay, me lad, a wold."

BOOMING TRADE.

EXPORTS £17,000,000 UP ON THE YEAR.

Board of Trade returns just issued show that there are signs of a steady trade improvement.

Imports during December amounted to £34,914,023, an increase of £9,547,300 compared with the total for December last year. There was, however, an increase of £17,000,000 on the year, showing the steady improvement in British trade.

The exports were £56,683,032, a decrease of £601,718 compared with those of December, 1921.

There were increased imports of grain and flour, raw cotton, meat, non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof, and woollen and worsted goods.

The chief increases in exports were: Coal £1,328,000, apparel £501,205, woollen and worsted yarns and goods £314,807, other textiles £384,038.

The chief decreases compared with December, 1921, were: Locomotives, ships, and aircraft £2,763,413, cotton yarns and manufactures £912,617, and machinery £720,561.

Exports for the year totalled £720,628,428, an increase of nearly £17,000,000. Imports were £1,008,918,124, a decline of over £50,000,000.

TWO KILLED BY MINE.

Two young men were killed by a large German mine which exploded on the shore at Ballydowane Bay, Co. Cork. They were examining it when the explosion occurred. A third man, who was standing some distance away, was rendered unconscious. The explosion was heard 15 miles away.

It is presumed the mine broke from its mooring during the recent heavy seas. Many mines are known to have been laid during the war off this coast.

Early tomorrow morning a boat crew, from the Royal Cork Yacht Club, will search the area.

GIPSY SMITH'S BRIGHTER LONDON.

HUMAN DOCUMENTS TELL THEIR STORIES.

Gipsy Smith has started a campaign in his own original style to convert the heart of London. In an interview with a representative of "The People" he explained some of the reasons for his mission, which is being conducted at the Kingsway Hall, W.C.

The man who, in five continents, has addressed more people than any living man, told a representative of "The People" that he could not say that the social evil was lessening in the provinces. As to London—that was one reason he was conducting his mission and was hopeful of the best results.

"What can you expect," he said, "when people shut God out of their programme, and when reverence for the Sabbath and the home—that is,

the love of father and mother—seem to be at a low level?

"Under such conditions people had no anchorage."

But there were many bright rifts in a dark sky, and many souls were being gathered in. Only recently after the big meeting at Sheffield, where for 1½ hours he stood his ground against being shouted down—not by the unemployed, but by unemployed—a big burly fellow came to him in the inquiry-room and said he wanted to give himself up.

"It seemed that some years before he had stolen two watches from people he had lodged with, and a warrant, he



GIPSY SMITH.

WORKERS' SEARCHLIGHT.

By ANDREW BUCHANAN, J.P.

1922 Retrospect.

Unemployment decreased by 25 per cent. during 1922; 30 million working days were lost through disputes, compared with 85 million in 1921; British tonnage cleared at our ports rose from 2,413,000 in January to 3,387,637 in November; unemployed seamen dropped from 30,262 to 21,300, last, but not least, the amount of fresh capital raised and invested in one direction or another in 1922 was £873,675,000, compared with £388,978,200 in 1921 and £196,527,000 in 1913.

Oil & Coal.

It is of the greatest importance to remember that a great market has been permanently lost to the coal industry by the substitution of oil burning ships for those driven by coal. The total oil burning ships of the world number 3,110, of which the U.S.A. have 1,790, and the U.K. 601. This accounts for over 22,000,000 tons, less coal used by the British Mercantile Marine. With this extra coal on the market I again ask when will the consumers benefit?

Mr. Robert Smillie Again!

I see Mr. Smillie agrees with what has been said in this column for some time, as he states: "I believe a trade revival is coming." He, however, goes on to say with regard to unemployment that "it was not the business of the Labour Party to bring forward a solution." I say emphatically if the Labour Party have a solution, they were sent to the House to produce it. If they have a solution and refuse to produce it they are traitors to the workers. If they have not a solution and pretend they have they are fooling the country.

Two "Jonahs"!

The South African Labour Party have followed the example of the British I.L.P. and thrown over State Socialism. It is their desire to co-operate with the Nationalist Party, but the latter won't have Socialism, so overboard it goes. The Nationalists to reciprocate have thrown over their Republican policy. Two Jonahs would be thrown overboard.

"Auld Reekie."

Edinburgh has followed the example of Glasgow and given a contract to Midlothian for £25,000 of steel rails. A Belgian firm tendered for £5,000 less, but the British rails were considered better quality and likely to last longer. "Auld Reekie" wisely decided that the dearest would in the long run be the cheapest. Charity and common sense begin at home.

The Nation's Budget.

The revenue for the nine months April 1 to Dec. 31 amounted to £55 millions, an actual decline of 91 millions compared with the same period in 1921. Expenditure shows a reduction of over 167 millions. The Budget estimated reduction for the full year was 169 millions. The total expenditure was £73 millions.

This is a record of sound finance.

The Building Guild.

At a meeting of the National Building Guild in Manchester, I notice, it was proposed that a big firm of Glasgow contractors, Messrs. McTaggart and Co., should practically take control and manage affairs. I am rather sorry, as the more channels of production we have the better, but after all private enterprise will assert itself.

Big Unions!

Trade Union amalgamations are the order of the day. The National Union of General Workers, the Municipal Employees' Association, and the National Amalgamated Union of Labour have agreed by big majorities to amalgamate. The new union will be launched shortly with half a million members. Thirty-five engineering unions are meeting to discuss one union for the metal industry, and the unions in the woolen industry are following suit. The Scottish Dock Labourers' Union have amalgamated with the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Trade Union Membership.

In 1900 the total trade union membership was under two millions, and in 1922 it was less than two and a half million. It rose to four millions in 1913, six and a half millions in 1918, eight millions in 1919, and nine and a half millions in 1920. The trade slump has knocked the membership down to about six millions, but it is again on the increase.

Houses.

Houses are being built at Eltham costing £350 which would have cost £700 a year ago and £1,000 two years ago.

Our Vanishing Aristocracy.

Big estates are continually being thrown on the market. The latest are the Lancashire and Cheshire estates of the Earl of Ellesmere. They have been bought by a syndicate.

Sectarian Practices.

We have this year sold State products below cost, throwing them on the market to keep going. In January our capital in cotton industry was £3,700,000, now it is £1,200,000. We have wasted £2,500,000 because we do not keep proper books.

So said Comrade Kamenetski, Soviet leader at Moscow Congress.

Although there were 16,000 unemployed in Leeds and 40,000 in Sheffield, only 600 in the former and 500 in the latter attended the unemployed demonstrations in these cities. It is evident that the unemployed want work not speeches.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A HOUSEWIFE.—As you state, "the women of Eng. land have the remedy in their own hands. Let them act."

SHARE HARDSHIPS.

CLERGYMAN'S PLEA AT DIOCESAN CONFERENCE.

If there is hardship to be borne by the clergy, let it be shared equally. Why should the highest live in luxury and the lowest in penury?" asked the Rev. Evan Davies, Rector of Llanddewi Rhuddoch, Abergavenny, at the Monmouth Diocesan Conference at Newport. No one, he said, should have more than £500 a year and a house.

There was not one incumbent on the committee who knew the meaning of an insufficient stipend, said Mr. Davies.

He doubted whether there was any layman among them who knew the pinch of low wages. Consequently he could not expect from them a sympathy born of hard experience.

PEER'S £1,197,826.

The late Earl Spencer, who was known in the House of Commons for many years as "Bobby" Spencer,

LAST PHASE OF ILFORD CRIME.

EXECUTION OF FATAL LOVERS.

Mrs. Thompson's Hysteria BYWATERS' FINAL CIGARETTE.

The curtain was rung down on the Ilford drama with the executions at Holloway and Pentonville of Mrs. Edith Thompson and Frederick Bywaters, who were convicted of the murder of Percy Thompson, the former husband at midnight on Oct. 4.

Mrs. Thompson was hanged at Holloway at 9 a.m. on Tuesday morning, and her lover at Pentonville at the same hour.

A woman, Mrs. Elizabeth Cromin, the chief wardress, witnessed Mrs. Thompson's execution and afterwards gave evidence at the inquest.

In marked contrast to Bywaters, Mrs. Thompson went to her doom in a state of prostration. She had been in a condition of collapse nearly all the previous night and was continually under the doctor's care. When the hour for the execution arrived she was in a dazed state, only partially conscious, and unable to walk, so that she had practically to be carried.

The doctor was in attendance almost up to the time of the execution.

In moments of consciousness she asked for Bywaters.

Mrs. Thompson's composure, it is said, deserted her directly the last interview with her relatives ended on the day before the execution. For some time she was in a state of hysteria, and had to be medically attended.

All the women officials who have been engaged in watching Mrs. Thompson felt the strain acutely.

UNWANTED BREAKFAST.

On the morning of the execution Mrs. Thompson was awakened at a few minutes to eight o'clock. In a dazed way she dressed herself and nibbled at a slice of toast and an apple, a breakfast of her own choice.

She laid the food aside almost untouched when the executioner, Ellis, entered the cell at two minutes to nine, and gave way to distressful moaning.

It was not until 9.33 that the official notice stating that the execution had been carried out was posted outside the prison. It read:—

"We, the undersigned, hereby declare that the judgment of death was this day executed on Edith J. Thompson in his Majesty's prison at Holloway."

Hamilton Gepp, Under-Sheriff.
G. Murray, Chaplain.
J. H. Morton, Governor."

The posting of this notice had been awaited by a crowd of 5,000, some of whom had taken up their positions as early as 7.30.

Among the early arrivals was a woman who carried a placard bearing the words: "Murder cannot be abolished by murder."

PARENTS AT INQUEST.

As the time for the execution approached the police force was augmented, and shortly before nine o'clock the crowd had grown to several hundreds. So dense did it become that at the request of the police the League of Intercession abandoned a service which had been arranged.

The Under-Sheriff of Essex (Mr. Hamilton Gepp) arrived at the prison soon after eight o'clock, and a little later was joined by the prison chaplain.

As each minute after the official hour passed and no notice of the execution was posted, a curious feeling passed over the crowd.

"Has anything gone wrong?" was the question that occurred to everyone, but when the chaplain came out at ten minutes past nine suspicion was allayed.

For an hour previously an elderly woman, who refused to disclose her identity, had been silently pacing the drive leading to the prison.

She stopped the chaplain, spoke a few words, and then, with tears streaming down her cheeks, hurried away.

Mr. and Mrs. Graydon, Mr. Thompson's father and mother, were present at the inquest on their daughter. They were accompanied by a friend of the dead woman's sister. Mr. Graydon identified the body of his daughter.

"WORK SICKNESS."

CURIOUS MALADY AFTER LONG ILLNESS. It has been diagnosed by the chairman of Sheffield Insurance Committee, Mr. G. Slack, that an illness known as "work sickness" has attacked large numbers of men returning to work after a long spell of idleness.

He has been inundated, he says, with benefit claims by a large number of workers who after one or two years of the hole have resumed work, only to collapse after two or three weeks.

The symptoms of the malady, he says, are neurasthenia, through the sudden return to a cramped existence and prolonged concentration after the freedom and vagabondage of the workless period.

"GLORIOUS."

"I have had a glorious time, and I have spent or lost the money," said James Duckworth (24), a soldier, when charged at Aldershot with breaking into the canteen at the Field Stores, Aldershot and stealing £4 3s. and cigarettes.

Duckworth, who had eight years' good service to his credit, was sent to goal for six weeks.

DEAD ASTRIDE GATE.

When climbing over a wooden gate near his home at Aberdeen Mr. John Meldrum fainted. He grasped the top bar of the gate to steady himself, but in that position died. Shortly afterwards his body was found seated astride the gate.

FIND IN POLICE CELL.

When Mary Rowland (60), pleaded guilty at Clerkenwell to a charge of being drunk and incapable a constable said she was an honest woman. She found in the cell a gold ring which a prisoner had lost a week ago, and handed it over to the inspector on duty. The woman was bound over.

MOTHERS' SONS.

"Mothers are always biased in favour of their boys, and quite rightly so," said the Willesden magistrate.

"I don't know," he added, "what some modern boys would do if their mothers were not biased in their favour."

RUINED A GIRL BANK CLERK.

GAOL AND DEPORTATION FOR GENERAL'S SON.

"She was 29 on Christmas Day," he said with emotion.

Dr. John Hall Morton, who said that he acted both as medical officer and governor of the gaol, stated that the sentence had been duly carried out that day.

Asked by the coroner (Dr. F. J. Waldo) whether the sentence was properly carried out, Dr. Morton replied: Yes.

Was there any hitch at all? None of any kind. Death was instantaneous and there was no delay in carrying out the execution.

BYWATERS CALM.

THANKS TO PRISON OFFICIALS.

Bywaters passed a fairly good night on Monday. He awoke at an early hour, receiving Holy Communion exactly an hour before he was due to die.

He partook of a little breakfast and afterwards smoked a cigarette.

SHORTLY BEFORE THE FINAL PREPARATIONS for the execution had been made the condemned man sent a message to the governor and official, thanking them for all they had done for him during the time he had been in Pentonville.

A few minutes before nine o'clock Willis and Pierrepont, the executioners, entered the cell and quickly pinioned the condemned man.

Bywaters walked firmly to the scaffold. The official notices stating that the execution had been carried out were not posted until about a quarter to ten. The first notice read:

"We, the undersigned, hereby declare that judgment of death was this day executed on Edward Francis Bywaters in His Majesty's prison at Pentonville in our presence."

Francis H. D. C. Whitmore, Sheriff of Essex.

F. W. H. Blake, Governor.

Alfred Pugh, Chaplain.

The other notice was the usual formal surgeon's certificate.

The inquest on Bywaters was held in the afternoon by Mr. Walter Schroder, coroner for Central London, at Pentonville Prison.

Major Blake, the governor, stated that the execution was properly carried out. There was no hitch, and the man was dead within half a minute of leaving the condemned cell.

Medical evidence was given, and the jury found that Bywaters was duly executed according to law.

A crowd of 5,000 had assembled outside Pentonville Prison long before the execution and despite a downpour of rain they waited until the posting of the notice on the prison door.

There were no scenes similar to those at Holloway. The watchers quickly dispersed when it became known that all was over.

MRS. THOMPSON'S WILL

CAVEAT RAISES INTERESTING LEGAL POINT.

A very interesting legal point. "The People," understands, is likely to arise in connection with Mrs. Thompson's will. Mrs. Thompson, it is said, instructed her solicitor, Mr. F. A. S. Stern, to enter a caveat.

Such a caveat, unless revoked, remains in force for a period of six months. The question arises, is it possible for Mr. Stern, in face of no further instructions from his late client, to withdraw the caveat? It is understood that such an application may be made, but it may be six months before Probate can be granted.

An enquiry at Somerset House a representative of "The People" was informed that the will had not yet been received there.

BYWATERS NOT MENTIONED.

While there are references to the trial and to the murdered man, Bywaters, it is stated, is not mentioned in the new will made by Mrs. Thompson while she was under sentence of death. It was witnessed by the prison officials.

The bulk of her property Mrs. Thompson leaves to her father, Mr. Graydon. There are several minor bequests.

On Dec. 1 a motion for the appointment of a receiver of Mr. Thompson's estate pending the grant of letters of administration was heard in the courts.

Wills had been made by Mrs. Thompson and her husband and lodged at the bank. They were what are called reciprocal wills, and each left all his or her estate. In court the estate was stated to amount to about £1,000.

Bywaters did not leave a will, but gave instructions for the disposal of his personal effects.

BIG HAUL OF ARMS.

TWO MEN AND A BOY ON RECKON.

Patrick Walsh, an elderly man, and Patrick Courtney, aged 50, and his 16-year-old son John, were remanded at Liverpool Police Court on a charge of being in unauthorised possession of arms.

The police stated that they found 10,000 rounds of ammunition, six revolvers, a machine-gun, and a large quantity of detonators and explosives in a house in Saltney-street, near the docks.

Mr. Howard Roberts, prosecuting, said it was alleged that the arms and ammunition were intended for the use of Irish guerillas in Ireland.

Walsh and the younger Courtney were packing ammunition into bags when the police entered the house.

The elder Courtney said he would take responsibility, but his son said, "You will not; this is a young man's fight."

Only a few weeks ago a similar haul was made a few hundred yards away from this house.

"DOWN AND OUT."

ERNEST BARRY'S BUSINESS LOSSES WHILE ABROAD.

Ernest Barry, who recently resigned the world's sculling championship, was at Brentford granted his discharge from bankruptcy, but the judge suspended the order for two years.

According to the Official Receiver's report, Barry's liabilities were £1,730, and his assets £23. A dividend of 5d. has been paid.

Barry's position was attributed to the fact that while in Australia for his sculling match a large sum became due to the brewers in respect of his business at the Fox Inn, Twickenham.

Barry also embarked on a bookmaker's business with others. He took no part in it, but became involved in a liability of £1,723.

Asked if he had anything to say, Barry replied, "I am down and out; I am practically stranded, and my athletic days are almost over."

PARENTS PILLORIED.

CHILDREN ASKED TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS.

There was a novel innovation at Harrogate Rotary Club luncheon when children of members were invited to express their opinion on their parents.

The secretary's daughter, Miss Mortimer, said that fathers had no originality in punishment, but simply punished as they themselves were punished years before.

QUEER MARRIAGE PROBLEM.

SCOTTISH GIRL AND HER LASCAR LOVER.

A marriage knot that cannot easily be tied is puzzling the Dundee registration authorities.

Natha Lakha, a lascar fireman, is anxious to marry his Dundee sweetheart, but the ceremony is not quite so simple as the couple would wish.

The ordinary religious marriage has been ruled out of the question by one striking fact—neither bride nor bridegroom professes any religion!

A civil marriage is therefore contemplated, but although Lakha has lived in Scotland for eight years he has not yet mastered the English language. He has sufficient knowledge of it to carry on ordinary conversation, but he cannot satisfy the authorities that he fully understands the legal phraseology of the marriage, and the responsibilities he desires to assume. Therefore they declare an interpreter must be found.

His wife came to see him at the bank in 1919, and he then denied that he was married to Miss Barter.

Getteman, in a written statement, said that he married a waitress in Brussels while he was at the university because he was "tired and miserable and had lost hope of redemption." He thought that the marriage was not legal in England, and that he was free to marry Miss Barter.

OTHERS SUSP.

"I suspected that Getteman was married," said Miss Barter, "because of letters and postcards arriving from Belgium. At the request of my solicitor he has written to Natha Lakha to inform him of this further handicap makes still more necessary the intervention of an interpreter.

But another problem is to find the interpreter. It might be possible to find a ship's officer with the necessary qualifications; but would such a man, having a close acquaintance with lascars, be willing to undertake the task?

It is well known that such men usually hold strong views on the question of race and colour.

Consequently the marriage has still to take place, and will be completed at the Sheriff's Court as soon as a suitable interpreter is forthcoming.

LIBEL BY RIDICULE.

TURF AGENT'S ATTACKS ON SOLICITOR.

Damages of £10 were awarded Mr. Bertram Ewart White, a solicitor, against Mr. William Robinson, turf commission agent, of Yale Court, Hampstead, in the County of London Sheriff's Court.

The sheriff pointed out to the jury that it was not a case of awarding heavy damages, but of teaching Robinson that it was not a good idea to annoy persons by ridiculous libels.

It was explained that Mr. White's firm had acted for a client in an action against Mr. Robinson which had been settled out of court, and that Mr. Robinson had since borne a grudge against Mr. White.

It was complained that Mr. Robinson sent Mr. White the following mock legal paper:

Re White of 1909. In the High Court of common sense, world's division, between Mr. White (plaintiff) and William Robinson (defendant).

Take note that a writ of inquiry into the scarcity of clients will be executed on Sunday, 1st day of April, 1923, at the hour of eleven of the clock—noon too in the forenoon at Yale Court in the borough of Hampstead, in the county of London, when and where counsel had better appear on behalf of the said Plaintiff (with a capital P) aforesaid.

It was explained that Mr. White's firm had acted for a client in an action against Mr. Robinson which had been settled out of court, and that Mr. Robinson had since borne a grudge against Mr. White.

Other libels were contained in letters to Mr. White's client in the action referred to. One read:—

"Don't let White get you to burn your fingers. You are good game for a lawyer, for you are so easily led . . . Lawyers are hungry sharks. . . . Have a bit on Beaumaris for the next big race he runs in. It will pay you better than law, and you cannot lose much."

Robinson once addressed a communication to "Be He White." That, said counsel, was obviously a play on the words, "Is he white man?" "Ha, ha, he—he—in this libel!" was another message alleged to have been posted to Mr. White.

PRISON FOR PARENTS.

FIVE CHILDREN BADLY NEGLECTED.

Alfred Ernest Hudson was at Rochester sentenced to four months' hard labour and his wife to three months' imprisonment.

Owing to rheumatism Hudson had been unable to work for the past two months, but he had a disability pension of £4 10s., and was doing the dole. A few days before Christmas he received £37 10s. as prize money.

The family lived at Strood in two rooms, which were found to be in a filthy condition, and the only furniture was a table

THE WASHING OF LACE.

(Conducted by MIMI.)

Lace of every sort and description is much used nowadays, but although it has been considerably lessened in price it is not yet anything like as cheap as it formerly was. It is always advisable to purchase lace in as good a quality as possible, even if the initial expense is rather high, but as good lace washes well and lasts a long time it is preferable to pay more in the first place.

The best way to wash wide or cream lace is to tack it on to a towel, keeping a straight line at the edges. Immerse the towel in warm soapy water, move it about and press it well on the hands until the lace appears clean. In lace, pass a through slightly damp water, squeeze well, roll up in a dry cloth, leave for a few hours, cover with several thicknesses of tissue paper and press with a good iron. When absolutely dry, untack from the towel.

Black lace requires rather different treatment. If only dusty and soiled, it should not be washed, but only well shaken to remove the loose dust and then dipped in a solution of deep blue gum water.

When black lace becomes very dusty and brownish in colour, it is better to wash it in soap lather, then rinse and stiffen it in deep blue water which gum water has been added. Dry and iron in the same way as ordinary lace.

STIFFENING PROCESS.

Lace that requires stiffening should be allowed to dry before dipping it in gum starch, which has been divided in two parts, dissolved separately in cold water. Boil one half, let it cool, add to it the other half cold; then dilute with cold water to the consistency of cream. Dip the lace in this mixture and squeeze it out gently without wringing. Now lay it flat on the left hand and beat for a few minutes with the right hand to work the starch well in; repeat twice, and roll the article in a clean cloth. After one or two hours pin it out and shake before it is quite dry. To remove creases, dab once lightly with a sponge moistened with water and a few drops of starch, and iron again. After having gone over the whole length of lace pull it out crosswise from left to right and from right to left and iron once more.

Lace that has become discoloured with age may be restored to its original whiteness by first ironing it lightly, then folding it and sewing it into a clean linen bag, which is placed

for 24 hours in pure olive oil. Afterwards the bag is to be boiled in a solution of soap and water for fifteen minutes, then well rinsed in lukewarm water, and finally dipped into water containing a slight proportion of starch. The lace is then taken from the bag and stretched by pins to dry. When quite dry it will be as good as when first bought.

Nest is washed in exactly the same way as other lace, and also stiffened in water starch; but as it is so thin it does not take the stiffening very readily, and in consequence must be put into fairly thick starch. For this full strength water starch is necessary. The nest must be dried, then damped and ironed on the wrong side. It should be carefully ironed according to the width, as it has a great tendency to draw to the length and become stringy in appearance. Care must also be taken to keep the edges straight while it is being ironed.

THE HELPING HAND.

BOOT BLACKING. — A brilliant blacking for boots and shoes can be made in the following manner: Take a pint and a half of vinegar, half a pint of black ink, 4oz. of blue, 2oz. of gum arabic, and 2 drachms of isinglass. Break up the blue into a hot pot; pour over it one pint of vinegar, and let it stand until quite soft. Crush the gum slightly and put it into another pot; pour the ink over it and let it stand until thoroughly dissolved. Place the isinglass in a basin with sufficient water to cover it, and place it near the fire for an hour or so. When these three ingredients have all arrived at the desired softness, put the blue into a saucerman, pour the remaining vinegar over it, and stir over a gentle heat until it is completely melted and well mixed with the vinegar. It must not come to the boil. Then add the gum and ink mixture. Go on stirring until just before the boiling point is reached. Next pour in the isinglass, remove the saucerman from the fire and pour the liquid into jars. When required, pour out as much as is wanted, heat, and apply a thin coating with a dry sponge. The quicker the boot dries the brighter and more lasting will be the polish.

Vinegar or stale beer added to ordinary boot polish will improve the quality and add to its brilliancy. (By request.)

MARKS ON WALL PAPER. — Oil marks and marks where people have rested their heads can be removed from wall paper by mixing pipe-clay with water to the consistency of cream, laying it on the spot and letting it remain until the mark is easily brushed off. The mark, unless it be of very old standing, will be found to have vanished.



No. 59.—Simple Frock for little girls, 1-2, 2-4, 4-6 years. The sailor collar, cuffs and hem are faced with contrasting material. The sleeves are set into low armholes. A slit fastening is arranged under a knotted tie down the centre front. 6d.

No. 60.—Smart double-breasted Coat, with silk or velvet collar and

cuffs. A three-quarter inch belt confines the fullness at the waist and the sleeves are set into ordinary armholes. 5d.

No. 61.—Dainty slip-on Camisole. The neck yoke is fashioned of lace and three pin tucks are arranged each side of the front. It is gathered with an elastic at the waist. 6d.

No. 62.—Practical Gym. Tunic for girls, 8-10, 10-12, 12-14, with three box-pleats back and front and a loose girdle at the waist. The fastening is arranged on the shoulders or can be slipped over the head. A simple shirt blouse is given with the tunic. 6d.

THE PEOPLE'S "DOCTOR": HEALTH HINTS FOR THE HOME

To-day we publish the fifth of a series of articles by our Medical Correspondent on the all-important subject of "Health in the Home." "The People's" doctor will deal each week with the most "reasonable" maladies to which young and old are subject.

We suggest that readers should cut out and file these articles for reference, as they will be of incalculable value to the event of sickness in the home.

DIPHTHERIA. — This dangerous infectious disease, which is always endemic in large towns, is easy to recognise in well-marked cases, but where there is any doubt a small particle of the exudation removed from the throat on a sterilised swab of cotton wool, and sent for bacteriological examination, will at once verify the matter.

Taking an ordinary case—following an incubation period of a week—a feeling of malaise sets in, with some fever, and stiffness of the neck. This is soon followed by whitish patches appearing on the back of the throat or tonsils, which changes to a yellowish-brown colour; at the same time the temperature runs up, with a rapid, feeble pulse and great weakness. Occasionally these patches of exudation appear first; or remain limited to the lower part of the throat (larynx), and are not easily seen. Should all go well convalescence will set in about the fourteenth day. Very mild cases may be convalescent in a few days, and should a doctor not be called in infection may be spread broadcast. The poison of diphtheria is usually conveyed

SMALL HOLDINGS & OWNERSHIP.

LITTLE KNOWN PROVISIONS OF POST-WAR ACT.

(By Andrew Buchanan, J.P.J.)

Under the Small Holdings Act, 1919, the purchaser of a holding through a County Council: (1) Must pay on completion of purchase not less than one-fifth of the purchase money; (2) May have up to one-fourth of purchase money lent by State; and (3) The remainder of purchase money is repayable in 50 years.

Under the new Land Settlement Act, 1920, a tenant can purchase his holding, and the price must not include any unearned gains due to the tenant's work. The period of repayment is now 60 years, and on completion of purchase the one-fifth is now not necessary. The State now lends the whole of the purchase money. Any County Council not already owning any small holdings can buy land from an owner and sell to purchaser. The landowner is paid in full by County Council or by a perpetual annuity.

Why is advantage not taken of these provisions? Because very few people know anything about them.

The above facts should be borne in mind in face of Denmark's example.

The Danish Land Settlement Act prohibits holdings above 144 acres, and when large estates came into the market they came under the Act, with the result that 20 years ago, out of 225,000 tenants, only 2,000 had farms over 144 acres, and 150,000 under 12 acres. Denmark is now a land of smallholders.

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The Danish Land Settlement Act prohibits holdings above 144 acres, and when large estates came into the market they came under the Act, with the result that 20 years ago, out of 225,000 tenants, only 2,000 had farms over 144 acres, and 150,000 under 12 acres. Denmark is now a land of smallholders.

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RECKLESS GAIETY OF MALTBY AND HIS MISTRESS.

GAMBLING AND EXTRAVAGANT HABITS WHICH BROUGHT RUIN.

(Continued from page 8.)

"MAD HARRY."

WOULD-BE DON JUAN'S WASTED LIFE.

(By One Who Knows Him.)

at the Adelphi Rooms in Edgware-rd. Before the interval Maltby became the Patsy's partner, and in the course of the game exchanged a few remarks with him.

"We thought nothing more of him until the affair was over when, going into a neighbouring hotel for refreshment, we saw him sitting on a lounge with another man.

Maltby smiled at us and we went over and spoke to him again. Mrs. Middleton bought drinks for herself and me and we continued talking.

"I noticed that he addressed most of his conversation to Mrs. Middleton and I was rather left out in the cold.

A MEAN FELLOW."

Eventually Patsy and I left the place and I remarked to her: "What a mean fellow. Fancy talking to us like that and not offering to buy us anything? She agreed that it was mean and added that she considered him anything but nice-looking.

When next I met Patsy she surprised me by telling me that she was "going out to tea with" that fellow we met the other evening." At first I did not understand what she meant, but she soon made clear that she was referring to Maltby.

After that they were always to be seen together. They went to race-meetings, and I have often seen the two of them at what drives at the Shepherd's Bush Baths.

Patsy was very well known there. She was always beautifully dressed and invariably had cigarette in her mouth. She had a habit of sticking the cigarette between two of her upper teeth and of talking with it in her mouth.

She was immensely popular. She evidently had been well educated. Although she mostly spoke upon racing matters she could also converse intelligently on subjects of general interest.

PATSY'S DISAPPEARANCE.

"In addition to this she was decidedly pretty and possessed attractive manners. It was not long, however, before I noticed a change in her. She had always been a broad-minded woman and a thorough sport.

"While, formerly, she would enter a public house and have a drink, she would not indulge too freely in that direction.

"Soon I heard that she was becoming an habitue of saloon bars. Then it became common knowledge that she was to be found in such places at all times of the day and night.

"Once I asked Maltby 'Where is Patsy?' and he replied 'She is in the—spotting the winners.' The man, who was by no means sober, added that he had left her in the hotel because he had grown tired of waiting for her.

"Then suddenly we missed Patsy from the whist drives. Night after night Maltby would come without her. Once I asked him what had become of her. He gave me an evasive answer and ever afterwards avoided my company.

"Most of us knew that Patsy had a husband at sea. I recollect that once Mrs. Middleton told me that she was going to Cardiff to meet her husband, whose boat had put in there.

LETTERS FROM CARDIFF.

"While she was in Cardiff, presumably with her husband, she was carrying on a correspondence with Maltby. He showed me letters he had received from her.

"Most of the money which Mrs. Middleton received from her husband went on horse racing. She was extraordinarily lucky, and had the reputation of being 'in the know.' She was always giving good tips.

"On more than one occasion she spoke to me in a manner which indicated that she was on very friendly terms with certain trainers. Sometimes—generally when she had received a remittance from her husband—she was to be seen in the Tattersall enclosure.

"At other times she would frequent the 'silver ring,' and I have often known her to be one of the ordinary crowd."

THE LAST CUP.

Mrs. Lephart, whose husband keeps a shop next door to Maltby's, said: "About 12 o'clock (about an hour before his death) I gave Mr. Maltby a cup of tea. I handed it to him over the verandah. He said, 'Thank you very much. As soon as I am dressed I shall go and see the police.' That is the last I saw of him."

CIRL FOOTBALLERS.

AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS' CONCERN.

According to the book published by Mr. Sydney Smith, junior, on their triumphant tour of England in 1922, the Australian cricketers hold strong views on the subject of girl footballers.

The author states that the team were invited to watch a match at Bradford between girls of 17 to 24 years of age, representing two factories.

"After seeing the game for about 15 minutes," he writes, "we were quite satisfied that it was not entertaining or elevating. It is hoped that this form of amusement among the future mothers of England will not be encouraged.

There are plenty of other forms of pleasure for girls of this age, and it was, in my opinion, degrading to see an audience, composed mostly of young men, barracking and giggling during the whole time play was in progress."

POLICE BLUNDER ALLEGATION.

SUDDEN COLLAPSE OF LETTERS CASE.

There was a sudden collapse of the case at Brighton Police Court, in which Frederick Charles Partridge, a clerk, William Henry Clark, a commission agent, and Mrs. Jessie Evans were charged on suspicion with the theft of 8,000 letters.

Det.-Insp. Taylor stated that a reply had been received from the Postmaster-General stating that he did not wish to proceed any further in the matter.

Counsel for Mrs. Evans said that police were now satisfied that her explanation was an accurate one.

Counsel for Clark (Mr. Carpenter) submitted that the police had made a very serious blunder. It was a new law to him that persons could be arrested haphazard when they were perfectly innocent and above the breath of suspicion.

For Partridge, Mr. Grinstead stated that the police, though apparently having no evidence against him, took him to the cells, took his finger prints, and his property. He thought the cost of the defence should be paid by the police.

Det.-Insp. Taylor said if Clark and Partridge had given a satisfactory account of the letters, instead of denying all knowledge of them, only the letters would have been seized, and statements would have been taken from defendants.

Mr. Carpenter: Is it not scandalous that the police should ask to withdraw the charge and then stand up and try and make out a case?

The chairman (Sir John Blaker) said that the magistrates, after considerable hesitation, and by a majority, had decided not to grant costs.

The case was then dismissed.

DOCTORS WHO DOPE.

DENIAL OF A STARTLING ASSERTION.

"The drug habit is rampant in the medical profession owing to pressure of work, one out of every four medical men being drug addicts."

Such was the startling assertion quoted by Dr. Harry Campbell at a meeting of specialists at the headquarters of the Medical Society of London.

Those most subject to become addicted to drugs, he said, were of the unstable and neurotic type; indeed, some neurotics, if not actually insane, were on the border line.

It was little use attempting to treat those belonging to the strictly degenerate or weak-willed class. These were obviously cases for custody.

To lock up a person against his will simply meant that he would revert to the habit when he was released.

The statement has been emphatically contradicted by leading members of the medical profession.

Dr. A. Cox, medical secretary of the British Medical Association, describes it as a "gross libel" and a "perfectly monstrous assertion," while Sir Alfred Fripp refers to it as "absolute rubbish."

"The authority from which I quoted was a book written by Dr. Oscar Jennings, and published in 1909," said Dr. Campbell in a subsequent interview. "I cannot support the assertion from personal experience," he added.

MET AT AN HOTEL.

STORY OF AN INTERRUPTED ROMANCE.

A meeting at the Savoy Hotel, London, had a sequel at Leamington, when a young couple were charged under a Aliens' Order, 1920.

Oleg Mezina Nova, or Downes, was charged with failing to register, and Aubrey John Graham Wigan was summoned in the making of riding habits and similar work.

Unfortunately, he had no interest in business. He had often confessed it. He had a far greater interest in racing, and he was fond of spending money—not earning it. The business had a high-class clientele, the customers including Peers and M.P.s, and Mr. James Maltby had specialized in the making of riding habits and similar work.

His son's inattention had a gradual, but none the less certain effect. Even when he was at Park-rd., it is said, he had a far keener eye for any pretty woman who was passing than for the demands of his customer, and he was better pleased to attend race meetings or perform "stunts" on his motor-cycle than devote himself to his shop.

From time to time he fell under the fascination of various women. What need to go into details? It is really enough comment on the dead man's life that one of his employees, referring to Mrs. Middleton, once said to him, "This bird has been a long while on the perch. Isn't it time you had a change?" But in this case, Maltby was not so sure that he wanted a change, for Mrs. Middleton exercised over him a far more lasting spell than the women to whom he had previously paid court.

As a matter of fact, the others were all young. There was a pretty French girl with brown hair and eyes, who is believed to have been employed at a store in the West-End. She stayed at the Park-rd. premises more than once, and apparently Maltby was very fond of her. Also he was credited with a great fancy for a young woman engaged in a Government office, and referred to as "Miss R." To her he used to telephone in order to make appointments. And so long as he had any he always carried out the plan which he said gave him most pleasure—to spend money without laud.

The case against Wigan, who said he was introduced to the woman by an airman at the Savoy Hotel, was dismissed. The woman was fined £5.

LIFE LIGHTLY TREATED.

SUICIDE INCREASE.

TROUBLES SHOULD BE MET BRAVELY.

The increasing number of suicides through no apparent reason was referred to by the Lincoln City coroner at an inquiry into the death of Violet Clarkson, aged 15, whose body was found in the canal.

In this case and in others, said the coroner, there were instances in which people had ended their lives deliberately through life there was a considerable responsibility, he thought, to teach quiet, mindedness, to meet troubles bravely and pluckily, and to know that there was no need to be upset or disturbed at the least.

It was a serious matter. He did not say it in the case of this girl, but on teachers and clergy and ministers who had to do with the upbringing of people and to do with the guiding of them through life there was a considerable responsibility.

Det.-Insp. Taylor said that he did not think that persons could be arrested haphazard when they were perfectly innocent and above the breath of suspicion.

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RISKED LIFE FOR LOVE.

Pretty Moslem's Dash Across Bosphorus.

A secret marriage, for which the bride risked her life under the Turkish law, took place in Constantinople between a young British officer, stationed there, and a pretty Turkish girl from Scutari.

The girl, who, despite laws prohibiting even friendship between Turkish women and Europeans, had been meeting her lover secretly, escaped at night from her home, and, crossing the Bosphorus in a small boat, sought refuge with friends in the house where her fiancee and a brother officer awaited her.

The British Consul previously refused to marry the couple, and the ceremony was performed by the chaplain of the bridgeguard's regiment, who first baptised the bride.

As she had incurred the death penalty by becoming a Christian, she and her husband immediately left for a Western capital, and by dawn they were safely across the border.

To facilitate their flight, the bride wore a smart Parisian hat instead of the traditional black veil which Turkish custom compels women to wear to hide their faces.

LUNATIC WIFE.

HUSBAND DENIES SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS.

Extraordinary allegations as to the treatment of a lunatic wife were made at Southport Police Court when John Aughton, a farmer, of Bakers-lane, Southport, was summoned for an order to contribute to his wife's maintenance in a lunatic asylum.

The relieving officer stated that when he visited the house prior to Mrs. Aughton's removal, he found her fastened in a room in total darkness; and a big iron bar had been placed across the door, which was also tied with rope.

He had broken a window in the attempt to get out, a barn door having been put across the window.

Mrs. Aughton was walking about in an almost nude condition.

Defendant strongly denied these statements. His wife, he said, had been treated with every kindness.

She had been away previously for 15 years, and he got her back. She had never been locked in a room.

Two witnesses stated that Mrs. Aughton had received the utmost care and attention.

An order was made for the payment of £1 3s. 4d. a week towards the wife's maintenance.

MATCH-SELLING TENOR TELLS HIS STORY.

EMBANKMENT NIGHTS.

ROMANTIC RETURN TO THE STAGE

Vivid stories of his days of hardship and his sufferings when reduced to match-selling in Piccadilly Circus were told to a representative of "The People" by Mr. Noel Fleming, the brilliant tenor and son of Barton McGuckin, the great Irish singer.

Noel Fleming was recognised by Mr. Fraser Gange, the Scottish vocalist, and his representations have led to the erstwhile match-seller being booked to appear at the London Palladium to-morrow.

"More than one morning," said Mr. Fleming, "I have started out with only my unsold stock of matches—my last halfpenny having gone to pay my bed overnight in a place where they, of necessity, give you no credit."

"Breakfast? About lunch time, if I had done well, I began to think of that!"

"But there were several nights when even the lodgings money was not forthcoming, so I used to go down to Waterloo Station and sit for an hour or two on the station benches till they would come and ask for my ticket, and I had to move along for fear of being arrested for loitering."

SUPPER AT A STALL.

"On such nights I kept a copper or two for 'supper' at a coffee-stall—a cup of coffee and a hot pie—and afterwards dozed on the Embankment, or went into St. Martin's Church, which, thank God, is open all night. But even of this I didn't care to make a habit—one didn't like to go there every night!"

"During these days I had constant odds, and once I was approached by two plain-clothed policemen, who wanted to know 'what my game was'."

"What are you doing this for?" said one—"a wager?"

"They then carefully pointed out to me an old woman match-seller not far away who a short time before had been arrested for begging!"

"This was one of my difficulties. Sometimes a man, possibly detecting from my voice or manner that I had not been long at the match-selling business, and being sympathetic would give me a 6d. and walk away."

"I had to call after more than one kind soul to 'please take his matches, lest I should be charged with begging.'

"But there were strokes of good luck with the bad. On two separate occasions when standing outside the London Pavilion a woman's handkerchief crashed down among my matches—in one case enclosing half-a-crown, and in the other a florin! I have not yet discovered the generous donor."

BEDMATES.

"What were my fellow lodgers like at nights? Well, most of us used to go in pretty late and saw little of each other, but among a pretty tough crowd now and again I found one or two 'down and out' actors and solicitors! Decent fellows, and willing to halve the 'almost nothing' they possessed."

"Mr. Fraser Gange, the famous singer, told how he 'spotted' Mr. Fleming on New Year's Day, as he was crossing to the Monico to lunch with his wife, 'Miss Amy Evans.'"

"I know that man!" I said to myself, and walked straight up to him. "What are you doing here, Fleming?" I said.

"Well, sir," he said.

I said: "None of your 'air! You know perfectly well who I am. How did you get here?"

He gave in and said, "I know you, you're Fraser Gange. We've appeared on the same platform."

"Exactly," I said, "and now we must put you out of this!"

"I hunted up Mr. Judd, of Messrs. Aspinwall's, another old mutual friend, and he said, 'Fetch him round at once.'

"As we got to the office and were just trying his voice, Mr. Marner rang up from the Palladium asking if I would sing at a matinee for Mr. Gulliver. I explained the situation to him, and he went to Mr. Gulliver and fixed up Noel Fleming's engagement on the spot!"

Mr. Fleming has sung at the promenade concerts at the Queen's Hall, at the Norwich Festival, and the Dame Clara Butt's concerts at the Albert Hall.

He joined the Public Schools and Universities Battalion of the Fusiliers just after the outbreak of war and was invalided in 1915.

"NOT A TEST CASE."

GAG FOR HUNGRY-MARCHERS.

Over a hundred marchers from the North, carrying banners, marched to Tower Bridge, where two of their number appeared in connection with the marchers' barricade at Christchurch Primary, Southwark, when two of their number, Philip Curran (25), a "holder-up" of High-st., Dumbarion, and Samuel Langley (27), of Newcastle-on-Tyne, were charged with refusing to be removed to another workhouse and locking themselves in their dormitory.

In his evidence, the master of the Primary said the institution was for infirm people, whereas the marchers were fit, and when accused were asked to go to Belmont they absolutely refused.

Accused were sentenced to seven days' hard labour, the magistrate saying that he did not consider the charges formed a test case.

FIRST WOMAN PASTOR IN WALES.

Miss Annie D. Lodwick, of Briton Ferry, Glamorgan, who has accepted an invitation to the pastorate of Cresswell Bay Baptist Church, Pembrokeshire, is the first woman pastor to take charge of a church in Wales.

Miss Lodwick, who is 25 years of age, was trained at an Edinburgh seminary, and at first intended going as a missionary to China and Japan.

SPOT-CHANGING "GHOST" OF COALVILLE.

IS IT A LIONPARD?

"BOWLING" SUCCESS OF THE NIGHT.

The people of the Leicestershire colliery town of Coalville and surrounding neighbourhood have been greatly amused by stories of a strange animal parading the district at night making weird sounds and rousing residents in the London-rd. and Oxford-st. portions of the district from their slumbers.

An inhabitant of Oxford-st., and his wife, stoutly declare that they saw the animal eating from a swill tub in their back garden by the light of the moon, and the man has declared it to be a "lioness."

The reports having received wide publicity, timid folk and young children have become somewhat alarmed, many parents complaining that their little ones are unable to sleep at night, though the majority of the people are disposed to treat it as a huge joke.

Various descriptions of the animal have been given. At first it was declared to have a "White skin with a bushy tail."

But either this was the effect of a vivid imagination or else the nocturnal intruder can claim to be a quick-change artist, for another person who declares to have seen it describes its colour as dark brown.

Perhaps this change of description became necessary in order to fit in with the theory that it was a "lioness," because that could hardly hold good in face of the original description, inasmuch as it would be a peculiar "lioness" to have a white skin and a bushy tail.

FOOTPRINTS OF A BEAR.

The mystery was deepened, however, by the declaration that the footprints found in the garden resembled those of a bear.

Other theories are that possibly a cheetah, leopard or some such animal is at large which, perhaps, finds favour with timid people inasmuch as Coalville is close to the Charnwood Forest, and one of the alleged eye-witnesses said that the animal was one with spots.

There is no question about the town being all agog with excitement, but to say that consternation prevails, except among the younger element and a few timid people, is, of course, nonsense.

There seems to be no doubt that a large dog, the property of a local farmer, is the disturber of the peace, though there are also complaints of eerie midnight sounds from the same locality which have been traced to a donkey.

BUILDING TRADE DISPUTE.

WORKERS OPPOSE EMPLOYERS' PROPOSALS.

The crisis in the building trade created by the employers' proposals for a reduction of wages by 20 per cent., and an extension of working hours which the operatives are strenuously resisting, was considered in London by the operatives' representatives on the National Wages and Conditions Council.

It was officially announced that a full meeting of the Executives of the various Unions will be held in London on Friday next, when the full facts of the dispute will be reported to them and a course of action decided upon.

In the interval arrangements are to be made for organising mass meetings of the men all over the country, and the resolution that was proposed by the operatives' side of the Council, but not accepted by the employers, will be submitted for endorsement. This resolution urges that the present agreement should be extended for another 12 months from March 1, 1923.

About 500,000 are affected by the dispute; but there can be no stoppage before March 1, when the present agreement expires.

PUSHED INTO RIVER.

GIRL'S STORY OF ABDUCTION IN MOTOR CAR.

An amazing story of how she was carried off by two men in a motor car and afterwards pushed into the River Severn by an unknown person was related to the Stafford police by Nancy Bowcher (21), a domestic servant, of Wolverhampton.

John Warrender, who saw the girl struggling in the water, dived into the river and rescued her.

The girl said she was returning from Rugby to her mistress's house when two men drove up in a motor car and asked her to go with them. She refused, and they forced her into the car and took her to Birmingham.

It was too late to return to Rugby, and she went to her parents, who live at Wolverhampton. She sent a telegram to her employer saying that she would return the next day.

In the morning she came face to face at Birmingham station, with the men who had abducted her. She was too frightened to continue her journey, so went back to Wolverhampton, but was about to go home.

She went to Stafford and walked across the fields by the river to Bright Bridge. As she was looking over the bridge somebody came behind her and pushed her into the water.

PRISON FOR WILL FORGERS.

For forging a will purporting to be made by James Phillips, a Salvation Army commandant, who died last April, Edward Johns (22), of Raunds, Northamptonshire, was sentenced at the Old Bailey to three years' penal servitude.

Onslow Smith (70), a clerk, of Islington, N.W., was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment for conspiring with Johns.

£100 FOR NEWS OF LOST SOLICITOR.

MYSTERY LETTER.

BLOODHOUNDS' NON-SUCCESS.

On New Year's Eve, Mr. Thomas Melard Vernon, a Guiseley (near Leeds) solicitor, left his house—ostensibly for his customary evening stroll. Since then his relatives and friends have lost all trace of him.

Bloodhounds have been employed in endeavours to find him, but without avail. Scotland Yard has now taken charge of the mystery, and £100 is being offered for information that will lead to his restoration alive. Another reward of £50 is offered for information leading to his discovery under any circumstances.

The following curious letter, received by Mr. Arthur Vernon, the missing man's brother, has been sent to Scotland Yard.

"To Mrs. Vernon.—The body of your husband lies in the rever left hand side, Tenes Meder [Meadow], Yorkshire, and near waller house. If you find the body put in the 'Sunday People' newspaper, then I will send my name and address.—W. P."

A GLUE.

Mr. Arthur Vernon thinks the writer must be someone of a clairvoyant frame of mind, who is anxious to get the reward.

The missing man was a gunner in the Navy during the war, and, according to his brother, he has been "nervy" since.

Two identifications have reached Guiseley. In a letter from Hutton Moor Kipon, Mrs. J. Pickles stated, "I feel sure the missing man passed my house on Wednesday morning about 9.45 on the Thirsk Road. I was struck by the man in which he held his head down."

From Town Farm, Bretton, near Wakefield, Mr. Thomas Bradley wrote that a man had called at the house, saying he was wet and cold, and that he had been out all night.

"He appeared to be a gentleman. He was not ordinary tramp I am sure," concluded Mr. Bradley.

The West Riding police are extending their search to include lodging-houses, workhouses, and asylums.

£8,000 HOTEL THEFT.

BRICKS IN SUIT CASE OF VANISHED GUEST.

A woman guest at the Bourne Hall Hotel, Bournemouth, has sustained a loss of £8,000 as the result of a robbery. She is Mrs. Stewart, of Glasgow, and she discovered her loss on returning to the hotel for dinner on Wednesday.

The missing articles include—

£3,500 pearl necklace.
£1,500 cable furs.
£500 brooches.
200 other pieces of jewellery.

It has been ascertained by the police that a man who stayed at the hotel on the previous night decamped in the morning leaving behind him a suit-case containing two bricks, a cushion, and some clothing.

He was aged about 35, sturdy built, of fair complexion, and clean-shaven.

The Clifton Hall Hotel, Exeter-rd., Bournemouth, was the scene of a similar robbery on the day previous.

The victims in this case were two women. Jewellery valued at about £100 was stolen.

Both thefts are believed to be the work of experts.

The man believed to be concerned in Bourne Hall Hotel affair is thought to have carried out similar robberies at South coast resorts.

BUILT HIS OWN HOUSE.

MAGISTRATE PAY FINE THEY IMPOSED.

For failing to notify the Staines Rural Council of the completion of a house which he said he had erected himself in the evenings and at week-ends, C. H. Weller was fined 10s. at Feltham, Middlesex. The magistrates paid the fine themselves.

The house was described as "a ramshackle place of concrete with a roof of corrugated iron and felt."

There was no proper water supply or drainage, and the sanitary accommodation was inadequate. The ceiling was 14 feet too low.

Defendant said this was the only house he had been able to get since he left the Army.

Two other summonses were adjourned to see if defendant could get a proper house erected on the site.

FOUND WITH COCAINE.

PRISONER'S OFFER TO POLICE.

Arrested at Coventry, where, at his lodgings, five ounces of pure cocaine were found, Cyril Goode (21), of Sotl-hill-nd., Coventry, was, at Stoke-on-Trent, sentenced to four months' hard labour for supplying cocaine to a chimney sweep.

Accused told the officer who arrested him that if the police would engage him he could point out to them all the traffickers in cocaine at Ostend, adding that it was between that place and Ghent that he was given cocaine in a railway carriage, and that when he came home he did not know what to do with it.

NURSE FINED £100.

For being in the unlawful possession of cocaine, Gertrude Parkes, a nurse, of Mysore-nd., Clapham Common, was fined £100 at Middlesbrough.

—Accused, it was seen in a dazed condition, and showed the matron of a mental hospital a pot of white powder, which was found to contain 100 grains of cocaine.

The defence was that the drug had been used by accused to relieve pain to the eyes.

OVERSIGHT IN OPERATING THEATRE.

SWAB IN MAN'S BODY.

DEATH AFTER "GOOD RECOVERY."

A medical mistake in the operating theatre was disclosed at the inquest at Stalybridge, Cheshire, on an ex-Service man named Nicholls.

A post-mortem examination revealed presence in the abdomen of a piece of gauze 12 in. long by 8 in. wide which had been accidentally left in the body after an operation at the Knotty Ash Hospital, Liverpool, six months ago.

Major Rigby, medical superintendent at Knotty Ash Hospital, said the operation was performed by Mr. Monsarrat, a Liverpool surgeon, assisted by Dr. Shepherd, of Liverpool, a trained nurse being also present.

Major Rigby said that while the operation was in progress terrible bleeding took place, and to staunch the flow they had to put swabs into the organ operated on.

The man left the hospital in September as a "good recovery," but a month later complained to his wife that something was prickling him in the abdomen, and he wondered if a stitch had been left in.

A RECOGNISED ACCIDENT.

Asked how he accounted for the presence in the body of the gauze swab, Dr. Shepherd replied: "Well, sir, it is a recognised accident of surgery." He explained that it was customary to count the swabs used before and after an operation, and in this respect there was a triple responsibility.

ABANDONED ON CHINESE JUNK.

SAVED BY FRIGATE.

SEA WAIF'S AMAZING HISTORY.

A romantic story of a sea waif who became a prosperous business man is recalled by the death of Mr. James Haynes Hill (68), of New London, Connecticut.

Just before his death Mr. Hill finished a book on which he had been working for several years, dealing with his life.

Who his parents were, and what became of them, he never knew. All he knew was that when he was about four years old he was captured by Chinese bandits and abandoned on a junk.

As the junk was floating off the coast of China it ran foul of the United States frigate Powhatan, in command of Capt. James Haynes, of New London. Capt. Haynes gave an order to blow up the junk, but on second thought sent a sailor aboard to see if anything of value or interest was there. The sailor came upon the baby sleeping in the cabin.

But Hill never remembered that. His first memories, with which he begins his book, tell of the two years cruising of the Powhatan before it finally put in at New London. His first dim memories are of the deck of the Powhatan, with Capt. Haynes standing by and a bunch of sailors romping with him, and with no land in sight. He said he had a vague recollection of a terrible storm in the Mediterranean—a few days and nights of terror that stamped themselves on his mind.

When the ship got back to New London Captain Haynes turned the boy, who was then six years old, over to his sister, Mrs. Lucy Chapman. He took the name of James Haynes Hill. He never went back to sea, and never left New London. He made his home with Mrs. Chapman until 28 years ago, when he married Miss Susie Hunt. She died several years ago.

In former years Hill would go along the waterfront and talk to the old ship masters who came in from the China coast, asking them for all sorts of stories that they may have heard in China and hoping that some time he would come upon the true story of what happened before he was left alone on the junk. That he was placed there by bandits appeared certain to him, but what had gone before is unknown.

STEP-DAUGHTER BRIDE

HUSBAND'S PROMISE TO DYING WIFE.

Henry Stearn (63), agent, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to making false statements in order to obtain a marriage licence.

It was stated that his wife died in 1921. Last July he applied for a licence to marry her daughter, aged 45, by her first husband. He stated that he knew of no impediment to the marriage.

Mr. J. D. Cawell, for the defence, said that Stearn's wife when dying made him promise to marry her daughter, a nurse. He thought that the objection to marriage with a step-daughter, as being within the prohibited degrees of affinity, was only a Church objection, and the wedding could take place at a registrar office. His step-daughter, however, wished for a Church marriage. Both parties regretted that the marriage was null and void.

Sir E. Wild, the Recorder, said there were mitigating circumstances. He postponed sentence until next sessions, when Stearn would be set free without any sentence of imprisonment.—Bail was not allowed.

VACCINATION DEATH.

ONLY THIRD FATALITY IN 20,000 CASES

A five-months-old baby, who died at Pimlico following vaccination was the subject of an inquest at Westminster. It was stated that one of the four vaccination marks did not heal. The mother said she had never interfered with the shield covering the pad put on by the doctor.

Dr. Albert Cope, who vaccinated the child, said that two days before death there was cellulitis (inflammation of the tissues next to the skin). The lymph used was supplied by the Government. He vaccinated 12 children with this supply of lymph. There had been no other complaint. This was only the third fatal case in his 30 years' experience. In that time he had vaccinated more than 20,000 children.

Dr. Weir, pathologist, said that infection might have arisen from the movement of the arm and contact with clothes.

Mr. Ingleby Oddie, the coroner, recorded a verdict of death by misadventure. He added a rider that the vaccination was properly performed with satisfactory lymph and that the cellulitis did not arise from the lymph but was due to a germ entering the system through the post-vaccination scar and quite independently of the vaccination.

BABY ON RUBBISH HEAP.

INDIAN GIRL TOURISTS' FAREWELL.

"Unless a miracle happens we shall have to cut down the expenses of our Indian missions by about a third."

This was the statement of Mrs. General Booth at the Central Hall, Westminster, when an audience of Salvationists, which completely filled the hall, assembled to bid farewell to the 20 Indian girls who have toured Europe in the interests of the "Army's" Indian missions—and, incidentally, have travelled 25,000 miles.

The little dark-eyed maidens, whose ages range from seven to 14, gave a series of interesting and amusing displays under their Swedish women drill instructors. The youngest of them—a representative of "The People"—learned—had been thrown away on a rubbish heap in Central India province at the age of a year or so as "not wanted" and was picked up by officers of the Salvation Army. When "The People" representative saw her she had apparently forgotten the incident herself, and was all smiles!

An amusing scene, which included the taking of her first dose of medicine, was included in the programme, the principal parts being taken by a Marathi woman and her daughter and one of the Swedish instructors. It provoked shouts of laughter.

Commissioner Higgins, the Chief of Staff, gave an eloquent farewell message to the children on the eve of their return to India.

A DUKE'S ESTATE.

LIFE INTERESTS DISPOSED OF FOR £67,500.

At the statutory first meeting at the London Bankruptcy Court of the creditors of the Duke of Leinster, the Senior Official Receiver read the following cablegram from the Duke sent from New York:

"Returning middle January, arranging payment of all debts in full! Please stay proceedings."

Mr. Boyle, having dealt with the proofs of debts, which numbered 13, and aggregated £24,757, reported that all the proxies were in favour of the appointment of Mr. F. S. Salaman as trustee.

In the ordinary course an application would be made to adjudicate the Duke bankrupt.

Mr. F. S. Salaman said he was also trustee in the previous bankruptcy, and as soon as the adjudication was made in this case he should be lodging a proof for about £35,000 for the unsatisfied debts in the first bankruptcy.

With his knowledge of the circumstances, continued Mr. Salaman, he was doubtful if the Duke would really be able to pay his debts in full. It was therefore important that an adjudication should be made.

The Duke's reversionary life interest in his estate, Mr. Salaman added, was sold to Sir Harry Mallaby-Dedley, and negotiations had been opened with Sir Harry in the hope that the life interest could be repurchased on such terms as would enable funds to be available for the payment of the creditors.

Nothing had yet been arranged. For that interest Sir Harry Mallaby-Dedley paid £67,500 and undertook to pay £1,000 a year for 10 years, and the Duke had the option of redeeming his interest within 10 years on payment of £60,000.

LIKE AS TWO PEAS.

TWIN AND TROUBLES NEVER COME ALONE.

Two brothers (twins), of Whitehaven, Cumberland, are so much alike that their mother cannot distinguish one from the other.

They both play for Kells United Football Club, and recently the referee warned one of three occasions in the same match, and finally ordered the other brother off the field under the impression that he had "manoeuvred" the rules a fourth time.

When he appeared before the Cumberland County Football Association he described the incident as a huge mistake.

"It is my brother who was cautioned three times," he said, "but I was ordered off. Nobody can tell the difference between us. We are of the same build, and have the same features."

The Association decided to take no action in the matter.

BLIND DEAF MUTE.

CRIPPLE'S FORTUNES OF MARRIED LIFE.

A deaf, dumb and blind cripple was summoned at Blackburn for deserting his wife. Deaf and dumb interpreters had to be called to secure evidence.

It appeared that the man, Robert Ralph, of Snig Brook, a blind pensioner, married his wife last March. A fortnight later they disagreed and parted. The Bench dismissed the summons.

WRONG LEG CUT OFF SURGICAL MISTAKES.

GRAND GUIGNOL IN THE OPERATING THEATRE.

A celebrated surgeon operating in the case of a compound fracture removed the wrong leg. He then wanted to cut off the other leg, but the patient protested, and was eventually left with a healed limb which it had been desired to amputate.

This is one of the many secrets of the operating theatre revealed by Dr. Harold Burrows in his recently published book, "Mistakes and Accidents of the Surgery."

According to the author instances of "swabs" being left in the patient's interior and the use of insufficiently sterilized instruments are fairly common. Absent-mindedness is given as the cause.

Commenting on the leg incident, Dr. Burrows remarks: "The mistake has been made, and will probably be made again."

In an operation for tonsils the doctor relates that an old blade was used which had been so frequently sharpened that it had become thin. It snapped during the operation, and the blade became embedded in the patient's throat.

GAZED BY ANESTHETIC.

Another terrifying mistake occurred when both the operator and the anaesthetist were "gassed" by the decomposition products of the chloroform, which had come into contact with a hot stove. Both dropped to the ground unconscious.

The nurse saved the situation by rushing to the window, opening it, and dropping the patient—a baby—to the ground. Happily, no evil results ensued.

Minor operations, too, are often performed badly. No operation, says Dr. Burrows, is so carelessly done as the removal of tonsils, simply because it is regarded as demanding so little skill from the performer.

SHOPLIFTER'S PLEA.

IT LOOKED SO EASY WHEN OTHERS DID IT.

Three women who were charged before the Manchester City Justices with stealing from a shop pleaded that they had been tempted because they had seen other women stealing and they were not detected.

"Up till my baby was born a few months ago I have always had money to pay for everything I fancied. I saw other women taking things, and it looked so easy that I too was tempted," said the wife of an unemployed ex-soldier, of Ashley-lane, Newton Heath. She pleaded guilty to stealing tins of sardines from Messrs. Woolworth's Stores, Oldham-st., and a quantity of children's wearing apparel and other things, from Messrs. Lewis's, Market-st.

The magistrates, in binding her over in the sum of £10, stated that they were inclined to believe that she had been tempted by seeing other people helping themselves.

In another case against two married women, both of Samuel-st., Crewe, who pleaded guilty to being concerned together in stealing articles valued at £6 10s. from Messrs. Affleck and Brown, Oldham-st., and other articles to the value of £4 10s. from Messrs. Lewis's, Mr. Ralph J. Watts, defending, said they too, had been tempted by seeing other women stealing in the shops mentioned. They were both fined.

A REST AND ITS SEQUEL.

FIRE STARTED BY CARELESS DRUNKEN MAN.

Walter P. Pick, a home-breaker, who was originally charged with setting fire to a stable at Swallowbeck Grange, near Lincoln, admitted to the Lincoln magistrates that, when drunk, he lost his way in the fog, and sat down on a heap of straw in the stable. He lighted a match, and later found that a fire had started. He became frightened, and ran away.

Pick was further charged with wantonly omitting to give the alarm of fire, thereby causing unnecessary suffering to two horses in the stable. The animals were burned to death.

The boy, who was said to have stolen the Bovril from the back of a van, was placed on probation. He was fined £1, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.

DOLE ANOMALY.

MAN MAY EARN 25 AND DRAW RELIEF.

An anomaly of the "dole" system was referred to by the magistrate at North London during the hearing of a charge of obtaining relief by false pretences.

"If a man starts work at midnight on Saturday and works till midnight on Sunday, and earns £5, he can draw the dole for the rest of the week, and do nothing," he said. "But if he touches his work on the Saturday night or the Monday morning, he is not entitled to receive the dole for those days."

A WOMAN FAGIN.

"For months past this woman has been a habitual receiver of goods stolen by children," said a detective, when Mrs. Maud Lancett (35) appeared in Marylebone Police Court on a charge of stealing six 30z. bottles of Bovril, stolen by some boys, who had been drinking methylated spirits, met the girl on her way to school, and kicked her to death in a field. It had been previously been paying attention to her.

He was found guilty and in passing sentence of death, the judge said he could hold out no hope of mercy. Prisoner had lived a life of crime, and had done a girl to death in a shocking manner.

The son was discharged, but the father was committed to the assizes.

THIS MORNING'S LATEST LINES.

LARGE SOAP WORKS AT ASHBY-DELA ZOUCH.

Large soap works at Ashby-de-la-Zouch are shortly to be started. Frederick G. Dalton, 33, of Battersea, ran a nail into his foot, and died later of lockjaw.

H.M. armoured cruiser Shannon, which has been flag-ship of three cruiser squadrons, has been sold for breaking up on the Clyde.

The sales of National Savings Certificates for the week ended Dec. 31, 1922, were £61,575, making a grand total sold of £72,627.

Rev. Dr. Maurice Jones, rector of Rotherfield Peppard, Henley, has been appointed principal of St. David's College, Lampeter, Carmarthenshire.

Killed by Safety Razor.—James Rhodes, waver of Preston, who cut his throat with the blade of a safety razor, has died.

No Sunday Burials.—Steps are being taken by clergymen and cemetery authorities to put a stop to Sunday burials in East Cheshire.

Died Under a Motor-bus.—At an inquest on William Hallon (41), it was said he deliberately dived under a motor-bus at the corner of Seven Sisters r.l., Holloway.

Honesty Sunday.—Because of increasing dishonesty the Swansea magistrates have asked local ministers of religion to fix a Sunday for sermons in every pulpit on honesty.

Tramps' Travel de Luxe.—According to the Berkshire Workhouse master, tramps have taken to travelling to casual wards on the rear of motor-buses, often "tramping" 50 miles a day in this way.

Stump in Shipbuilding.—Shipping under construction in Great Britain and Ireland on Dec. 31 amounted to 1,663,599 tons, more than a million tons less than was under construction a year ago.

£300 A Year Minimum.—A scheme for increasing all benefits which fall below £300 a year up to that amount is being started by the diocese of Manchester. The capital sum required for carrying this into effect is £12,000.

THRILLING GALE RESCUES.

CREW OF FISHING BOAT FOUND UNCONSCIOUS.

A thrilling rescue of a fishing boat's crew was effected during what has been described as the worst gale that has been experienced on the Irish Sea for very many years.

After having been at the mercy of the terrific seas for two days and a night, during which time they had had neither food nor sleep, the crew of the fishing boat, Shamrock, were rescued in an unconscious condition about 10 miles off Point of Ayr, Isle of Man.

Captain William Adair, of the a.s.s. Balmarino, was proceeding from Newry to Workington to load coal when he sighted the Shamrock.

The fishing boat engines had broken, her sails were gone, and it was evident that she was quite out of control.

On getting nearer Captain Adair discovered the crew lying in the scupper unconsciously, with great seas breaking over them.

For two hours Captain Adair maneuvered the Balmarino until he was able to get a line aboard. One of the men, who afterwards admitted that he was recalled to consciousness by the blowing of the Balmarino's siren, staggered to his feet and endeavoured to make the line fast.

WE SEE TOGETHER.

It was not until 20 attempts had been made that the man, Gilbert Kirkpatrick, was able to summon sufficient strength for the task. He was brought to the deck of the Balmarino.

Seeing it was impossible to get his comrades on board, Kirkpatrick waited until a wave brought the Shamrock near the Balmarino, and shouting out, "If we have to die, we are going to die together," he took a running leap from the steamer's deck and landed on the deck of the fishing boat, which was lost to sight in the seas.

Again the Balmarino got a line aboard, and the captain endeavoured to haul the unconscious men on board the steamer, but had to abandon the attempt owing to the heavy seas.

He therefore continued to tow the Shamrock to Workington, and after 15 hours brought her safely into dock.

ARSON ALLEGATIONS.

PILE OF CHAIRS AND OIL CANS IN HOUSE.

Allegations of incendiarism were made at Lowestoft Police Court, when John Skilton Summers and his son, David, were charged with having set on fire the elder prisoner

LEFT-HAND STRANGLE-**HOLD THEORY.****TEST IN COURT.****COMMITAL IN LONELY VILLA CRIME.**

There were dramatic incidents during the proceedings at Stockport Police Court, which ended in Frederick Wood, aged 29, described as a travelling upholsterer, being committed for trial on the charge of murdering Miss Margaret Gilchrist White.

The full story of the crime has been already related in "The People."

Miss White's body—she had been strangled—was found by her brother, with whom she lived at a lonely villa, at Bramhall, near Stockport, when he returned from business in the evening.

Wood gave himself up at Lincoln after the police had published a description of a man who was wanted in connection with the affair.

Dr. Nightingale, of Stockport, who, with Dr. Anderson conducted the post-mortem examination, was an important witness. His theory was that Miss White was throttled by pressure of the thumb of an assailant's left hand.

Considerable violence was used, and death should ensue in three minutes.

The doctor thought the attack had been made from Miss White's left side. She had been seized at the throat by the assailant's left hand, the right hand gripping her below the right shoulder.

He concluded that the hands had been tied at the wrists. He fixed the time of death at about 11 in the morning of Dec 14.

INJURED LEFT ARM.

Dr. Anderson gave it as his opinion that Miss White was seized from behind with the fingers of both hands round her neck.

In reply to Wood Dr. Anderson said Miss White was not a strong woman, but she was certainly strong enough to strain.

Wood, whose left arm is injured, desired to have that arm examined.

This was done during the luncheon interval, and afterwards in reply to Wood Dr. Nightingale said the arm was strong enough to throttle a person.

Previous to this, Mr. Sifton-Cohen, who is prosecuting, said that since he was last remanded Wood had handed to Chief-Instn. Brown, of Scotland Yard, a long written statement in a sealed envelope, marked, "Not to be opened till after the inquest."

The inquest was adjourned, and afterwards Instn. Brown opened the envelope.

Mr. Sifton-Cohen intimated that he proposed to read the statement.

Wood at once protested, saying that it was based on medical evidence, and it would be most unfair to read it before the doctors had given their evidence.

WOOD'S OUTBURST.

Sergt. Foster repeated the following verbal statement made to him by Wood before writing the statement already referred to:

"You'll get a shock. Miss White was at the gate when I was passing, and asked me to show her how to peat a chair, and said she would give me half a crown. I told her 10s. and 2s. 6d. of what I got out of that house was my own. I only got 1s.

Miss White was alive when I left her. Her dog was in the kitchen, and he would have worried me if he had got hold of me."

"The last time I was at the house she had to fasten him up, but I will explain the whole thing in my own way."

Chief-Instn. Brown told the court that, before sealing up the statement, Wood read it over to him.

The Bench urged Wood to agree to the statement being read.

Wood protested, "I am determined," he said, "to object. If you read it I shall offend all the time."

"You can gag me if you like, but I shall go on protesting until you send me downstairs."

Eventually it was decided not to read the statement at that juncture.

Before he was committed for trial at the next Chester Assizes Wood was asked if he had anything to say, and replied not guilty.

OLD AGE PENSION FRAUDS.**MAN SENT TO GAOL: TWO WOMEN FINER.**

An old age pensioner, William Else, was sent to prison for two months at Bromley, Kent, for making a false pension statement.

It was stated in court that he had been receiving £1 a week from his former employer, who made a strong appeal for money on Else's behalf.

"But for your age you would have been sent to prison," said the Brighton justices, in imposing a fine of £10 and £5 costs on Ellen Stevens for obtaining pension money by false pretences.

It was said that while in receipt of a pension, granted in consequence of the death of her son on active service, she failed to disclose the fact that she had a daughter living with her who contributed to the household expenses. It was stated that she had been overpaid £10 between July, 1918, and May last year.

A widow, Anna Westwood (74), of Pockenham, was fined £1 for similar offence, the pensions officer discovering that she had an allowance of £10 a week for her nephew.

JUDGE ON COMEDIAN'S WAGES.

When Sidney Dooley, a comedian in the "Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe," was sued at Manchester County Court by Moody Bros., of Birmingham, theatrical printers, for payment of a debt, Judge Mellor asked: "Is he a man who gets his name printed in six-inch letters or in small print?"

Applicant: Large letters. He gets £12 a week.

Judge Mellor: One knows something of the bad times which theatrical ventures are experiencing. I am not supposed to know anything about it, but I think if you halved that amount you would be about right. For a travelling comedian £12 a week is very good.

Defendant was ordered to repay the money in three instalments.

COAT POCKET EXPLOSION.**EXPERTS' TESTS ON STRAW DUMMY.**

"I am firmly convinced that the accident was due to the presence of a detonator in the man's pocket, and that the cartridges had nothing to do with the matter."

This is the conclusion of Major A. Cooper-Key, Chief Inspector of Explosives, in a report on the death at Culford, Bury St. Edmunds, on Dec. 1, last, of Cecil Stanley Shuter, a loader engaged with a party of guns, from injuries caused by an explosion in a pocket in which he was carrying a number of cartridges.

In the pocket were found eight undamaged cartridges and parts of seven others.

Regarding loose detonators in the pocket Major Cooper-Key says in the report:

"Mr. W. D. Borland, of Nobel Industries, Ltd., has carried out for me a series of experiments. A bag was prepared to represent a coat pocket filled with cartridges, placed in contact with a straw dummy to represent a man's body, and a No. 6 blasting detonator was fired among the cartridges. The effect was strikingly similar to that resulting from the accident under report."

"Some of the cartridges were blown to pieces, some lost their powder and some their shot."

POLICE BRUTALITY.**£500 FOR BRIDEGROOM WHOSE JAW WAS BROKEN.**

The Newcastle City Council have decided to pay £500 compensation and costs to Mr. Francis Gibson, a Yorkshire horse dealer, the victim of police brutality.

Mr. Gibson, a young man, arrived in Newcastle last Friday to be married, and was seized at the throat by the assailant's left hand, the right hand gripping her below the right shoulder.

He concluded that the hands had been tied at the wrists. He fixed the time of death at about 11 in the morning of Dec 14.

CHAMPAGNE AND WINES.

Champagnes and wines were often to be found in their rooms.

It had since transpired that the woman was the wife of a working gardener, who, after his demobilisation from the Army in March, 1919, lived in apartments with her for a time in Birmingham.

Det. Wright stated that the woman met Bernstein when she paid a visit to a music-hall one evening.

Apparently the two then went to London, and in August, 1920, took lodgings with a woman named Lucy Edith Rose, from whose house they disappeared with wearing apparel valued at £10.

For this offence the woman should have appeared at Bow-st. on Aug. 30.

The male prisoner and his brother went bail for her, but she again disappeared, bail was estreated, and the male prisoner's brother, who had seven or eight children, was practically ruined.

Practically during the whole of the transactions the man and woman were living together. Det. Wright expressed the opinion that Simpson was under Bernstein's influence. His was the in-spring mind.

A FORGIVING HUSBAND.

When Simpson was arrested in December she drew the detective's attention to a number of letters Bernstein had written, in which he had threatened her. She appeared to be thankful the business was over and glad to be able to get it off her mind.

Bernstein was a married man and his wife was a hard-working, industrious woman.

During the time he had lived with Simpson there was no doubt he had treated her cruelly at times. For the last three years he had done no work and had been living on the proceeds of the frauds.

The woman's husband, in answer to the Recorder, stated that he was prepared to take her back and to forgive her and forget the past.

He mentioned that owing to the publicity given to the case he had been suspended from his place of work, a fact which drew from the Recorder the remark that he heard "with great pain that any respectable firm would punish a man because he had an unfaithful wife."

The Recorder, in passing sentence, congratulated the woman on having the remarkable advantage of a husband whose conduct had been marked by kindness and forgiveness such as one did not often hear of in public life.

On being sentenced the female prisoner swooned and had to be carried from the dock.

FAR AWAY MYTHICAL WEALTH.**PRISON FOR "HEIRESS."****SWOONING WOMAN FORGIVEN BY HUSBAND.**

The career of a prepossessing woman, who induced her landlady to part with money by telling a story of a godfather in Bulgaria who died leaving her a substantial legacy, was cut short at Birmingham Quarter Sessions.

The woman, Agnes Louis Simpson (39), and Howard Bernstein (49), were charged with obtaining £80 by false pretences from Mrs. Alice Green, of Hall-d., Handsworth, with attempting to obtain £70 from the same woman, and with attempting to obtain £2 from a Mr. Ernest Edwin Lucas.

The man was sentenced to 14 months' imprisonment and the woman to 10 months' hard labour.

It was stated that the couple took rooms as "Mr. and Mrs. Howard," with Miss Green, and told her that the "wife" was heiress to large wealth left by her godfather, "Jimmy Beach," in Bulgaria.

From time to time they obtained various sums of money from Miss Green, and during the time they stayed in the house lived in an extravagant and expensive style.

CHAMPAGNE AND WINES.

Champagnes and wines were often to be found in their rooms.

It had since transpired that the woman was the wife of a working gardener, who, after his demobilisation from the Army in March, 1919, lived in apartments with her for a time in Birmingham.

Det. Wright stated that the woman met Bernstein when she paid a visit to a music-hall one evening.

Apparently the two then went to London, and in August, 1920, took lodgings with a woman named Lucy Edith Rose, from whose house they disappeared with wearing apparel valued at £10.

For this offence the woman should have appeared at Bow-st. on Aug. 30.

The male prisoner and his brother went bail for her, but she again disappeared, bail was estreated, and the male prisoner's brother, who had seven or eight children, was practically ruined.

Practically during the whole of the transactions the man and woman were living together. Det. Wright expressed the opinion that Simpson was under Bernstein's influence. His was the in-spring mind.

A FORGIVING HUSBAND.

When Simpson was arrested in December she drew the detective's attention to a number of letters Bernstein had written, in which he had threatened her. She appeared to be thankful the business was over and glad to be able to get it off her mind.

Bernstein was a married man and his wife was a hard-working, industrious woman.

During the time he had lived with Simpson there was no doubt he had treated her cruelly at times. For the last three years he had done no work and had been living on the proceeds of the frauds.

The woman's husband, in answer to the Recorder, stated that he was prepared to take her back and to forgive her and forget the past.

He mentioned that owing to the publicity given to the case he had been suspended from his place of work, a fact which drew from the Recorder the remark that he heard "with great pain that any respectable firm would punish a man because he had an unfaithful wife."

The Recorder, in passing sentence, congratulated the woman on having the remarkable advantage of a husband whose conduct had been marked by kindness and forgiveness such as one did not often hear of in public life.

On being sentenced the female prisoner swooned and had to be carried from the dock.

FAVOURITE DRINK.**WOMAN WHO LIKED BEER AND METHYLATED SPIRITS.**

"Her favourite drink was beer mixed with methylated spirits," was the statement made by a witness at a Nottingham inquest on Sarah Hall (53), widow, who was found dead in her home.

Elizabeth Bullivant, a neighbour, described Hall as an excessive drinker. Coroner: Did you ever see her drunk? Oh, yes, practically every day.

She heard Hall moaning and calling for help, but the doors were locked. She called the police, who effected an entrance. Hall said she had fallen down, and although she appeared to be in pain there was a strong smell of methylated spirits.

The woman was attended to, and placed on a couch. Next day she was found dead on the couch.

According to the medical evidence death was due to syncope attributable to chronic alcoholism.—A verdict to this effect was recorded.

CONSTABLE'S NIGHT "DUTY."

Said to have carried out burglaries while on night duty, P.C. Harry Scott was sentenced to nine months' hard labour at Grimsby. He was stated to have entered buildings with the use of skeleton keys.

During the hearing of the case it was said that P.C. Lewis had become insane since the charges had been preferred against Scott. A doctor attributed the sergeant's breakdown to his becoming excited and upset by the case.

KILLED BY FOOTBALL.

While walking near King's Lynn recreation ground, Mr. Robert Newton, aged 38, a retired commercial traveller, was struck on the head with a football kicked by boys. He fell and fractured his thigh bone, and died later.

At the inquest a verdict of accidental death was returned.

HIS CIGARETTE "DOLE."

"He won't look for work, and that's why we quarrel," said Mrs. Dunn, married less than a year ago, when she summoned her husband, John Henry Dunn, of Angel-end, Edmonton, at Tottenham, for persistent cruelty.

"He gives me 2s. a week, and 2s. 6d. of that goes in cigarettes for him," she added.

"Disgraceful," said the magistrate, who adjourned the case in the hope that a reconciliation would be effected.

Applicant: Large letters. He gets £12 a week.

Judge Mellor: One knows something of the bad times which theatrical ventures are experiencing. I am not supposed to know anything about it, but I think if you halved that amount you would be about right. For a travelling comedian £12 a week is very good.

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The TURF BY LARRY LYNX.

"Larry, Lynx" cannot correspond to post with readers, but will answer through "The Spokes" any racing or general sport questions. Address letters "Larry Lynx," "The Spokes," Kiford Lane, Strand, W.C.2.

AHEDNFORD DOUBLE

ANOTHER DEAD-HEAT FOR WHITE SATIN.

Marchester is not the only place where they have rain. There had evidently been plenty of it in the Birmingham district, and the course was, in consequence, holding. But Bromford Bridge going is less affected by the vagaries of the weather than any other course I know, so that the galloping was by no means so bad as it might have been.

It was simply a huge field of moderate animals for the Stedford Sailing Hurdle, but more than half were not fancied in the lead. However, punters found the right man in Glance, who was running in preference to Woodchurch, and who had been second to Warwick at Newbury. He was a comfortable winner from the second favourite, Matope, who was finishing very strongly. At 10/6, Mr. C. H. Edwards secured the winner.

A Faire Favourite.
Though the Birmingham Steeplechase was only a seller it was worth £300, and that there are some selling 'chasers in training was proved by the size of the field. They included two—Landice and Noble Guest—that once upon a time would not have stooped to so lowly a class, but they have apparently gone clean to the bad. Impromer proved a false favourite indeed, and has, I fancy, secured a false reputation. Anyway, he could not finish amongst the first three, whilst on the contrary Typical made every yard of the running, whilst Murdela, the second favourite, was runner-up—a most intelligent anticipation of the result.

Bettedon had a 12lb. penalty in the Staffordshire Hurdle for his smart Manchester win, so he gave way to Fariry—and a very capable understudy too. He made every yard of the running except when headed a stride or two on the flat by Tedney. The latter appeared to have taken his measure, but the Hedesford horse had the speed of him, and Jack Anthony did not ride Tedney out to the bitter end. It looked a peculiar sort of finish, but those are the facts.

A Grand National Probable.
Tom Coutouwais saddled a second winner in Conjuror II. At one time the horse was a hunter, and when "Jock" Ferguson had him he was considered of little use for racing, but the Hedesford wizard has made a fine fencer of him, and last March won the National Hunt Steeplechase with him. Coulthwaite, too, has trained young Mr. Dewhurst, the owner's son, into a capable horseman, and the combination now proved a great success. Conjuror II, just like the type for the Liverpool race, for which I hear he is to be entered, as well as Drifter. Vixie was distinctly second of his merits.

White Satin was backed for the Maiden Four-year-old Hurdle and though it was all over. Gray, the New Zealander, rode him when he dead-heated at Newbury; now George Duller had the mount. He was saving for his head at the outset, and it took Duller all his time to hold him. Still, he was in front until the very last stride, when San soft, who had made up three lengths from the final hurdles, got up to dead heat.

Out of the Common.
It is something uncommon in hurdle events for a horse to dead-heat in successive races. White Satin is as big a dog as the sticks as on the flat, or he would not have won. Duller simply dare not move on him.

The Packington Steeplechase was rather a peculiar race, but as the favourite, Denkin, managed to win that did not much matter, but to the majority Bonnerum ran well enough to suggest winning shortly.

AN IRISH 'CHASER.

A FINE DISPLAY BY JUST FOR LUCK.
It was one of the best afternoons' sport we have had this winter at Birmingham, on Tuesday. Plenty of runners and not duds, either. The popular horses were first and second favourites for the Ward End Chase—Matche Pauli

LIVERPOOL BOXING.

BURNSTONE BEATS GORDON.
Liverpool Stadium was packed when Johnny Gordon, Warrington, and Harry Burnstone, Middlebrough, met in a 13-round contest. Both came back to the ring at midday, at two o'clock. After a cautious opening the pair went at hammer and tongs, and Gordon delivered hard blows to the body. Burnstone, however, was very ill and was for the most isolated boxer, and soon had Gordon's face swelled up. Gordon valiantly fought on, but at the Middlebrough end held his own, and on points at half-distance, and, bar a knock-out, appeared a certain winner. Gordon was a lucky try to the close, and in the final stages he accepted punishment unflinchingly. The referee, Mr. Tom Gamble, of Manchester, had no hesitation in naming the Middlebrough representative the winner.

THE BABBIT PUNCH.
At the annual meeting of the British Boxing Board of Control at the National Sporting Club, it was proposed by Mr. Hawley (Nottingham) that when a competitor is suspended for breaking a rule, or for misconduct, the punch should be specifically mentioned in the rules of boxing as an illegal blow, but Mr. Hawley pointed out that as the rabbit punch could not be delivered in any but an illegal manner, the proposal was of no practical value. Huddersfield Town F.C. reported by the referee who gave him a caution in the first division match with Cheltenham suspended for six months.

MINERS AND FOOTBALL.
At a recent meeting of the Pontypridd district of the South Wales Miners' Federation it was decided to call the attention of the central executive committee to the federation to a branch of the Mines Act at some collieries by miners arranging to work an extended day, spread over the week, in order to secure a corresponding reduction of working time on the days when football matches are played. A. Baker, president of the miners' branch, said that the miners' branch of the Federations had no additional time to get in Welsh games, and he wanted additional time to get in English League matches. It is complained that, through the payment of gates, in consequence of this decision, the miners, many Welsh clubs are in a hopeless financial condition.

MANCHESTER "DIS-UNITED."
Following rumours of trouble in the Manchester United camp, it is stated the reason that McLean was not played against Hull City was the refusal of certain other players to turn out if he was. The latter had previously been the subject of inquiry by the directors, who were probably anxious about the statement on the club's programme that McLean was being given a "well-earned rest." "Mac's" desire is to go back to Scotland, and to be placed on the transfer list.

LEADING GOAL SCORERS.

The leading goal-scorers in the English League to date are as follows: Division I: Elliott (Middlesbrough) 15; Nathan (Gateshead) 12; Patterson (Birkenhead) 11; Barnes (Manchester City) and Smith J. (Penton Wanderers) 10 each; Division II: Beddoe (Blackpool) 15; Town (Coventry City) 14; Green (Stockport County) 10; Jackson (Southport) 9; Smith (Preston) 8; Parton (Warder) 8; Smith (Gateshead) 7; Hartshorn (Leeds) 6; Division III: (North) Addington (Selby) 12; Barnes (Balding Town) and Whitfield (Chesterfield) 11 each.

RACING JOTTINGS.

Seven to two is quite a nice price for one of Tom Coulthwaite's winners. But at Birmingham Just for Luck started at these odds after being beaten really in the end, to be then retained for 14/5.

Jimmy Wilde, the little boxer, came up on to the Press stand to see Ambridge carry his colours in the Moseley Hurdle Handicap. Jimmy had backed his horse win and placed, and as the race was 10/6, he had a good chance. There was "something to come" after the race. The winner turned up in Krooner, whose form has been somewhat erratic. Jimmy Wilde bid 17/5 for Krooner, but he was apparently acting for the horse's owner.

A NATIONAL HERO.

The Highfield School introduced us to a smart Irish fencer in Orlagh. This was his first appearance, and the school, for New Year's Day, finished third. Baldwyn, too, was won readily enough, but, of course, was "carrying nothing." But it was the way he took his fences that I liked. He is a typical Liverpool horse, and his owner, I understand, is open to sell him. Hastings saddled both Flairwind and Superstar, and they finished second and third. This may be the best record of the year, but that of Just for Luck in winning the Long Distance Hurdle. Frank Wootton rode a well-judged race on the top-weight. The winner had unaccountably gone out in the market from even to 1 to 2, in fact of the persistent run. D. Sweeney was fined a fiver and severely admonished for not having made himself acquainted with the course when Roosterville ran out with him.

The Calentia Turf Club is doing everything possible to restrict the sale of tickets for their Derby sweep. Meanwhile there are no restrictions to the number of chances you can take in the £10,000 Grand National at Aintree. R. D. Drifters, of Dublin, is organising for the Hollies at Cancer Hospital, tickets for which are 10/- each.

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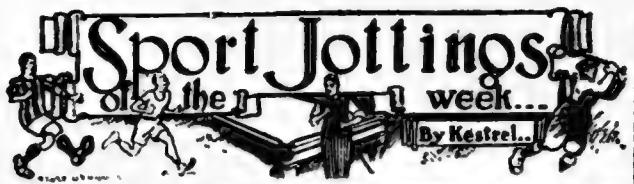
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A NATIONAL HERO.

The Highfield School introduced us to a smart Irish fencer



The "kick-off" in the greatest event of the year in Association football takes place to-day for the last few qualifying rounds for the F.A. Cup, though they are important enough to most of the clubs concerned are not regarded by the general public as the "real thing." This afternoon the thoughts of all followers of the game in this country, and of many who are now in other lands, will turn on some at least of the 32 matches to be decided.

It is 51 years now since the Cup was first played for, and the competition reached its zenith in the years just before the war when the Crystal Palace, for one day in the season, was the "Mecca" of all Soccer "fans," and they were joined in their pilgrimage by many thousands of sportsmen who classed the event in their calendars with the University Boat Race, and Rugby football match, the Derby, and the Grand National.

The war and the change of venue of the Cup final have caused a big decline in the number of spectators of the match since then, but with the new arena at Wembley Park available, it is quite likely the "gates" in the future will soon equal, if not exceed, the biggest in the past, especially if a London club is one of the two final teams.

For this to come about, however, the Wembley Park authorities will have to see that early arrivals at the ground are well catered for in the way of entertainments, refreshments, etc. The great beauty of the Crystal Palace days was that one could go down there quite early in the day, and spend an enjoyable time in the grounds before the match commenced, and thus had no need either to join in the scramble for the last places in the ground, or to spend weary hours waiting for the game to start, with nothing to do but to whistle to keep one's spirits up.

The F.A. Cup is popularly known as the "English" Cup, and justifies this title inasmuch as it has always been won by English clubs, though Scottish, Welsh, and Irish teams have joined in the fray in the past. Queen's Park twice reached the final, each time losing by a narrow margin to Blackburn Rovers. There is nothing in the rules, either to bar any recognised club from any country entering, but the F.A. have the right, of course, to refuse any entry they don't consider suitable.

The Corinthians will this year bear the banner of amateurism in the competition, a welcome sign of the times, for it is interesting to recall the fact that in the early days of the Cup professionalism was not dreamed of and there were not even any of those "sham amateur" sides in existence, whose appearance later on led to the regulation of players being legalised.

In the first year of the competition, 1872, all the entries came from the South, except two, Queen's Park and Dumbarton School, Scotland, and till 1881 the South had it all their own way. But in that season there were signs of coming change, as Sheffield Wednesday and Blackburn Rovers then reached the semi-final, the Rovers being beaten in the final by Old Etonians.

The next year Blackburn Olympic won the Cup, and from that time till Tottenham Hotspur beat Sheffield United in 1900-1, the North and Midlands kept the trophy in their midst. The "Spurs" are the only Southern team since 1883 who have been successful finalists, their second victory being gained in 1921, but Southampton have twice failed at the last hurdle, in 1899-1900 and 1912-13, and Bristol City came to the Crystal Palace in 1906-9 to lose 1-0 to Manchester United.

Cup records have been made by the Wanneroo, the famous old amateur who won it three times in succession, 1876-7-8, and equalled it in 1884-5. Blackburn Rovers, The Wanderers won the Cup outright, but returned it to the Association, who then made it a perpetual trophy, the Rovers receiving a special award for their third consecutive victory.

Aston Villa, with six wins, hold the record in this respect, and they have also another queer one to their credit (1) as the original Cup was stolen while they had it in their possession and has never been recovered. They are thus the only team that have won and lost the Cup in one year. Bury's 6-0 win over Derby County was the most decisive victory ever obtained, though Blackburn Rovers beat Sheffield Wednesday by 6-1 in 1890.

Snappington Averages.
Excluding the match just finished with a district XV, the bowling and batting averages of the M.C.C. team in South Africa are not unduly impressive. The players, who have been the greatest disappointments up to the present are Woolley, who has averaged 41.25 for 13 innings, and he has taken only 15 wickets at a cost of 17.80 runs each; and G. T. H. Stevens, whose batting average is 18.75 for nine innings, and whose bowling has not been at all effective. Sandham and Philip Head have shown good form with the bat, averaging 61.61 for 13 innings and 6.65 for 12 innings respectively, but none of the other batsmen have touched their best form.

Maccusay, with 28 wickets at an average cost of 8.82, Kennedy (48 at 13.16 each), and P. G. H. Wender (41 at 13.65 each), have done well with the ball, but much of their success has been due to the number of "rabbits" they have had to deal with in the minor matches.

These figures show why the team has not been as successful in the test matches as was hoped, but we know all the players are capable of much better performances, and there is some reason to hope that before the next tour with South Africa, which starts on Thursday at Durban some, at least, will have found their form again.

The Proper Way at Last.
That Great Britain should be fully and properly represented at the Olympic Games in France in 1924 is the wish of all reasonable men, though most of them would prefer that we should retire altogether in preference to sending an ill-found and unrepresentative body of athletes to the meeting.

For this reason I am very glad to see that referees have been busily at work on the British Olympic Council, and that they have gone about their business in the proper manner. They have taken time by the forelock, and are going to run the team on the only lines to secure success. The Council in former years has been dominated too much by enthusiastic but ill-informed "experts" at team-building, with the result that our men have been neither fully trained, fully representative,

MIDDLEWEIGHTS TO MEET AT THE N.S.C.

POSSIBLE OPPONENT FOR WINNER OF LEWIS-TODD FIGHT.

not fully equipped for their task, and what is just as bad, have not carried the confidence of the country with them.

In 1924 all these drawbacks will have been abolished if the reformed Council keep to the lines they have started upon. I shall have an opportunity of referring to this subject later on. In the meantime I wish the Council every success.

England's Chance Against Wales.

Next Saturday will see the start of the fight for the International Rugby Championship—present held by Wales—England entertaining the "Taffies" at Twickenham, and according to the draw, home advantage. The side chosen to represent England has not entirely pleased the critics who take strong exception to the inclusion of two "wingers"—Price and Voyer—in the pack and also to the omission of E. Morgan, the wily wing-half forward, for W. G. Evans. There again there is some grumbling at the age of the team generally, for many of the players are certainly "veterans" and can scarcely be expected to show their old form, this being especially the case as regards Edwards and Gilbert, the full backs.

It is said that the Welsh team will be a much younger one, and that the probability is that we are in for a sound beating as was the case in the mud at Cardiff last year.

With these criticisms I certainly agree to a great extent, but I do not take the pessimistic view of our chances that is expressed in certain quarters. I base my hopes chiefly on the fact that Davies and Evans are playing as well as ever, while C. M. Lowe seems to have recovered from his "malaise." When the Welsh come to Twickenham ground will not be anything like that "terrible mud heap" on which England had to play last year, and it is favourable to back play, as will be over-weight! At all events, a settlement was made, and now Ted and Frank are battling for £750.

Another item on the Club card is a trial

to be given to Norman Mulligan, bantam-weight champion of Australia, in 11 rounds by the lightweight, Fred Archer, at the Ring on Monday. In view of this defeat, Burns must pass out of all reckoning as an opponent for any of our front rank men, and yet there was a time when he was matched with Kid Lewis and Roland Todd.

According to the Club card, the heavyweight championship of the A.B.A. and South Africa laid claim to a world's amateur championship when Young Walker

won the bantam title at the Olympic Games at Antwerp. Walker, I have no doubt, was of South African birth, but such was not the case with all the men picked to represent S.A. at Antwerp. At the time of the selection W. Bradley, of Bermondsey, was in South Africa, and his name appeared in the S.A. list.

Fred Archer's name was never very prominent after that, but prominence was given to Watty Austin, of South Africa, in 1901, because of his two battles with Peleir Palmer in Cape Town. And even more prominent was the name of Jim Holloway, who fought under Kruger just over 20 years ago. Previous to the South African outbreak Holloway had boxed in London, where he failed to take the town by storm, and after a while nothing was heard of him again until our forces were marching on to Mafersfontein. Here, at one point, our troops were held up by one of the Boer's big guns, the firing of which was done with most skilful aim. All were puzzled as to the identity of the chief man behind the gun, but eventually there was a general opinion that it was no other than Holloway, the boxer.

South Africa, by the way, can boast of the Welsh team, I take it, will be strong, outclassed at half-back, and have a line of three-quarters remarkable more for soundness than pace or brilliancy. At full back there should be nothing to choose.

Archer will have a quartet of "threees"—that is, three opponents, and a pair of halves who should give them many opportunities of turning their speed to account. I hope Corbett will show his best form—he has not had a great success in big matches, but he is up to the mark, as usual, and every combination while Gosselin's defence should be equal to all emergencies.

He is well known by the Welshmen, I am afraid, to trouble them much in attack. Lowe is quite capable of winning the match on his own, but I am not so sure of his own ability. There is no one follower of the game who would have made our attack a great one.

If Wales win I am quite sure it will be because their forwards will prove able to prevent our outclassing them from getting away. The two packs will be an interesting one. I think our selectors have gone wrong in choosing Edwards, who has weight but nothing else in his favour, and I am afraid that the Welsh will be as bad as the English.

Both Price and Voyer worked hard in the terms last Saturday, and if they will do the same on every occasion when it is needed on Jan. 20 I feel fairly confident that our backs will handle the ball when enough men are available to man the wings. There is no one boy famous in Wales, but I have not

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£1,740,000 WORK SCHEMES.

IMPORTANT RAILWAY IMPROVEMENTS.

Important schemes which will effect material improvements in effect the lines are shortly to be put in hand by the London and Midland and Scottish Railway Company.

The work, which is estimated to cost £1,250,000, will include—

Widening of the line at Mifield, and between Horbury and Wakefield, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, entailing the construction of a viaduct and 12 new bridges.

Station enlargements and improvements at St. Anne's-on-Sea, Thornton (Lancs.), Bangor, and Llanudno.

Reconstruction of station at Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, in connection with the electrification of the branch line from Watford.

When the latter is completed there will be a through service of electric trains from Euston and Broad-st. to Rickmansworth.

WORK IN HAND.

Works already in hand include deepening Holyhead Harbour; a new line one mile 308 yards in length to serve a new coal pit between Wrexham and Connock Chase; new station buildings at Walsall; bridges at Leigh (Lancs.) and at Morecambe; and a new goods yard at Darlaston (Staffordshire).

It is stated that other railway companies have equally important improvement schemes under consideration, but are not yet in a position to make a public announcement.

CUTICURA HEALS SCALP TROUBLE

Red Spots Over Top of Baby's Head. Hair Fell Out.

"My baby's trouble began with tiny red spots of a wet nature on the top of her head, just over the forehead, in a short time spread to her head and formed a dry scale. She also affected her eyebrows and her hair all fell out. The breaking out was very distressing and irritated the baby a lot."

"The trouble lasted about two months before I began using Cuticura Ointment and after a fortnight's use the warts completely healed." (Signed) Mrs. E. Adams, Mill Rd., Oval, Cambs., Eng.

Cuticura Ointment ointments and salves, are ideal for all toilet purposes.

Post Office, Gloucester 14, 24, and 26. Gold Smiths' Hall, London, EC 2. Cuticura Ointment, 10/- per oz. Postage extra. 1/- per oz. Extra postage extra with price.

"Cuticura Soap choice without soap."

THE PRINCE AND WORKERS.

TOUR OF YORKSHIRE AND MIDLANDS.

A letter was read at the last meeting of the Sheffield City Council from Captain Lancelot, assistant private secretary to the Prince of Wales, stating that the Prince will visit the city on May 29.

The letter added—

"But I am to make it clear that all expense as possible shall be incurred on account of his visit, and that if the Prince be asked to go over any of your important works it is the staff and the employees whom he primarily wishes to see and not the plant."

The Prince will make a three-day tour of the Midlands, commencing on June 11. Places he will visit include: Sheffield, Bradford, Rotherham, Harrogate, York, Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton.

He will attend York races on May 31.

HEADS IN GAS OVENS.

TWO WOMEN FIND THEIR HUSBANDS DEAD.

Two women, living in the adjoining naval towns of Gillingham and Chatham, found their husbands lying dead, with their heads in gas ovens, when they came downstairs to prepare breakfast on Friday morning.

One of the victims was Samuel George Kirby (65), of Imperial-rd., Gillingham. He had been dreading an operation for cancer.

The other victim, Joseph Thomas Lowell, of Wyndham-rd., Chatham, a middle-aged man working as an electrical fitter at the Royal Naval Hospital, had also been ill-health.

BREAKFAST IN BED.

A story of breakfast served in bed at a London hotel was told by Justice Horridge during the evidence which resulted in Mrs. Elizabeth Gertrude Newcomer-Tyne, being granted a decree nisi on the grounds of the legal desertion and misconduct of her husband, Walter D. Hepworth, who did not defend.

Mrs. Hepworth said she was married in December, 1918, and obtained a restitution decree in June, 1922.

You ever stay at the Charing Cross Hotel? She was asked by her counsel.—"Never," was Mrs. Hepworth's emphatic reply.

William R. Webb, a waiter at the hotel, said that Mr. Hepworth arrived at the hotel with a lady in June last. Breakfast for two was ordered by the gentleman, and next morning, when witness took it up to the room, the couple were in bed. The woman was not Mrs. Hepworth.

The new motor-bus guide, issued by the London General Omnibus Company, is issued in the form of a pocket-booklet, and a map, particulars of 200 bus routes, list of roads traversed, and districts served.

CRIMMER LAMB PUZZLE.

EXPERTS IN FUR COAT CASE.

Fur experts from various West End stores gave evidence at Marlborough-st. Police Court of the summons against Messrs. Charles Waye, Ltd., Oxford-st., who for selling a fur coat to which an alleged false trade description, "Crimmer Lamb," was applied.

The prosecution was at the instance of the London Fur Trade Association. At previous hearings it was alleged that a coat sold at £7.7s. as grey Crimber lamb was made from "slink lamb," an inferior fur which was dyed grey to imitate Crimber.

Mr. Travers Humphreys appeared for the prosecution, and Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., and Mr. Roland Oliver for the defence.

Mr. William Bird, fur buyer to Harrods, said that he did not know of any custom in the retail fur trade to sell as "Crimmer lamb" anything except Crimber. He had never heard of Chinese "slink" lamb being described as Crimber lamb.

Sir E. Marshall-Hall put in a piece of fur which he said had been bought at Harrods and described as Crimber lamb. Mr. Bird said it was slink lamb. Such a description as Crimber lamb was not unknown.

Counsel next produced an invoice received with this fur, on which it was described as "Crimmer lamb, grey colour, three guineas."

Sir Edward also quoted a telegram received at Harrods asking for two yards of Crimber lamb trimming at 8s. 1d. a yard, and said that Messrs. Harrods interpreted the order by sending slink lamb. Mr. Bird said he could not account for this.

Mr. Allan Bruce, advisory director to Messrs. Bowring and Freshley, said that his firm sold slink lamb under the name of "Crimmer lamb."

When shown two invoices from his firm he said that the description thereon of "slink lamb" as "Crimmer lamb" was entirely unauthorized.

When a seven guinea coat was brought forward, Mr. Bruce said no one could mistake it for real Crimber. "I would be dear at my own life." From that it appeared that he was born in Switzerland, and followed various occupations. Then he went to Germany, and later he walked from Hamburg to Paris.

In Paris he got employment and eventually obtained some kind of qualifications which enabled him to start teaching. He then came over to England and wandered about from place to place, sometimes teaching, sometimes tramping. At one time he ran his own school.

The coroner quoted the following letter written by Bowman from the Belgrave Hotel to his former landlady:—

"I am sorry to say that my life is no good more to anyone, so I am going to dispose of it in this hotel to-night."

Another letter to the superintendent of police contained the following:—"I want you to offer my body to some medical school in London for dissection, and I enclose a sum of £10 to aid in finding a place to receive some of my liabilities. I also suggest that you should send an officer to the above address (Hampstead) and put a seal on all my property or remove it at once. They are valued, roughly speaking, at about £20. The cash-box should be sent to my wife."

SUGGESTED VERDICT.

The letter went on to say that he had been half mad, and that under such conditions a verdict of "Suicide while temporarily insane" was perfectly justifiable.

"I know (said the letter) our Lord says 'God doth not wish us to suffer in the way so many do suffer, and as my body belongs to me I can do with it what I like."

A letter addressed to Mrs. Bowman was read by the coroner as follows:—"I have sold my body to one of the London hospitals for dissection. You can tell the fisherman that he is the indirect cause of our unhappy married life and my death."

The coroner (Sgt. Nicholls) is of the opinion that the man she was living with—

Edwin Everitt, a solicitor's managing clerk, stated that he went to Hertford-rd., Clapham Junction, in May last, and served Mrs. Smith with the papers in these proceedings.

On July 6, 1922, co-respondent made an appointment by letter, and when served with the divorce papers exclaimed: "What am I to do with that?"

"I told him," said witness, "that if he had any defence he had better consult a solicitor."

"He said, 'There is no defence. I have lived with her (Mrs. Smith), but we quarrelled and are not living together now.'"

The landlord of the house in Hertford-rd. said Mrs. Smith and co-respondent were still living together in the name of Burford. During 1921 Mrs. Burford spent alternate weeks with co-respondent's mother at Alexandra-nd., Leyton, E., on June 26, 1921.

"When I knocked" (said the witness) "my sister-in-law opened the door. I said I had called to know if she was living with Mr. Hurford. She replied that she was. Hurford was not at home."

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Addressing his tenants at Coleorton, North Leicestershire, Sir George Beaumont, 66, stated that he had never married because he had not met a woman he could love better than his mother.

Interviewed afterwards, Sir George said that though his confession was made in pleasanty it was quite true.

"Of course," he added, "it can equally be said that I have not got married because marriage has not come my way. But there is still time, and I hope for the best."

At present the founder of the life I am living and feeding on, Sir George Beaumont, who is 42, Sir George's descent in direct male line from King Louis VIII. of France.

Sir George's mother, who shares his ivy-covered country house, has endeared herself to the tenantry by her acts of charity.

Counsel: There is a letter from his husband apologising for his conduct. In the letter co-respondent says that he only "intervened" after the break had occurred between husband and wife.

The Judge: Yes, that is enough. There is no need and costs.

WIFE AT FIFTEEN.

DIVORCE SUOER TO BOY AND GIRL MARRIAGE.

Ralph Thomas Langdon, an Edinburgh musician, obtained a decree of divorce in the Edinburgh Court of Session against his wife, Katherine Cairns, 15, to whom he was married about five years ago when she was 15 and he was 21.

The reason for the decree was the wife's misconduct with Reginald Rudolph, a married medical student from South Africa, at a camp on the beach at Guilane, Haddingtonshire, last summer.

Costs were given against Mr. Langdon.

HEADMASTER AND HIS WIFE.

HOTEL SUICIDE.

AMAZING LETTERS; BODY SOLD TO PAY DEBTS.

"You can tell the fisherman that he is the indirect cause of our unhappy life..." This was one of the extracts from a series of letters left behind by Mr. Otto Bowman, aged 61, a former headmaster of the High School, Brentwood, Essex.

Mr. Bowman was found shot in his bedroom at the Hotel Belgravia, West London, and died after being admitted to St. George's Hospital.

A verdict of "Suicide while of unsound mind" was returned by Mr. Ingley Eddie at the inquest at Westminster.

The evidence showed that three bullets had been discharged from the revolver and two cartridges had missed fire. Bowman had evidently missed himself once.

He was a member of the Royal Engineers.

Sgt. Albert Nicholls, the coroner's officer, stated that Mr. Bowman had been living at Hampstead, where he had furnished rooms, and owed about £5 to the landlady. He had been drinking very heavily.

On one occasion when he had delirium tremens very badly he rushed downstairs into the living-room of the house and threatened to shoot everyone and himself as well, having delusions that people were following him.

Mr. Bowman then went back to his bedroom and smashed the washstand and other furniture. He left the house, and nothing was seen or heard of him until his landlady received a letter from him from the Hotel Belgravia, saying that he was "going to end it all."

In answer to the coroner, Sgt. Nicholls said the landlady at Hampstead gave him to understand that Bowman's wife was living with a sea captain at Guernsey. Bowman often said in his drunken ravings that his present position was due to her.

Later, his husband got a position in China and she joined him there in November, 1922. She surprised him writing a letter which, on seeing, he crumpled up and threw away.

She recovered it and found it began "Dearest Betty" and that it made no difference to him.

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